

Hope

Hope is our Anchor

- 2 key words: Hope and Anchor

Hope

1. Positive word
2. Expectation of something desired – good thing
3. Confidence in a future event, await desire, confidence, belief (not as strong), longing.
4. It's an active word, not passive.

We hope for many things:

- To do well in education, an exam
- Get a good job
- That we'll have nice meal later
- Find a friend
- Find the right house, etc

These hopes haven't yet come into fruition, they're usually something for the **future**.

If we have it, it's no longer hope

We need hope. It keeps us positive, gives us something to look forward to.

Some hopes are more sure than others.

Eg. "I hope to become a millionaire." – not very likely

c/f: "I hope to graduate." – quite sure

Anchor

- A device for holding boats in place – according to need, bigger the ship, bigger the anchor
- It's designed to do the job. Despite storms, etc it holds firm.

- Key person, mainstay, eg. Team at work, Tug-of-war, climbing – strong anchor man
- Means of stability, security, strong, stay, like foundation.

Hope is **OUR** Anchor

Our Hope – belonging to **US (as Christians)**

- What is our common hope?

Colossians 1:27. “**Christ in you**, the hope of glory.”

*1 Peter 1:3 (TLB) “All honour to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being **born again** so that we are now **members of God’s own family**. Now we **live in the hope of eternal life** because Christ rose again from the dead.”*

- We are born again, members of God’s family – therefore have the sure hope of eternal life.

A Sure Hope

*Hebrews 6:19-20 (TLB) “This **certain hope** of being **saved** is a **strong and trustworthy anchor** for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven, ²⁰ where Christ has gone ahead to plead for us from his position as our High Priest ...”*

*(The Passion Translation) “We have this **certain hope** like a **strong, unbreakable anchor** holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold, and where Jesus, our forerunner, has gone in before us. He is now and forever our royal Priest ...”*

- Hope is mentioned 129 times in the Bible
- This is a sure hope – the surest hope of all.
- The only sure hope there is because it is based on immutability of God’s promises.
- Immutability – not capable of, or susceptible to change. “God is unchanging in His character, will, and Covenant promises.
- Christ is the object of our hope. As an anchor that keeps our souls from drifting.
- Biblical hope is not mere expectation and desire. It includes trust, confidence, refuge in God.
- We have a sure hope, more so than other hopes, because Jesus is our guarantor.

“This makes Jesus the guarantee of a far better way between us and God – one that really works!” (Hebrews 7:22. Msg)

Now and Future

- Biblical Hope is different to earthly hope – it applies now and in the future.
 - “Tricky”, because the blessings of this hope are in the present as well as the future.
 - We are being saved. Jesus enables us to enter into God’s presence now and in the future (heaven).
- Salvation: We are saved NOW from penalty of sin, forgiven, child of God.
 - We keep trusting in the future hope of eternal life in heaven

Hope and Faith

*Hebrews 11:1 “Now **faith** is **confidence** in what we **hope** for and assurance about what we do not see.”*

- There is a link between faith and hope
- They are closely related

- Faith is the next step. It leads us to receiving what we hope for.
- Eg. We hope to graduate (from school/uni/get a degree)
Now, we study hard.
At some point it becomes a **SURE** hope – we will **KNOW**.
- This becomes more like faith.

1 Corinthians 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

- Although love is the greatest, hope and faith are still important virtues.

Results/Benefits of Hope

Romans 13:15 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- Peace and joy

1 John 3:3. “All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

- Motivates purity

Psalm 146:5. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

- Happy/blessed

1 Thessalonians 5:8. “Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

- Our head/mind protected by having hope

Hebrews 6:18. *“We who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.”*⁺

➤ We take hold of hope and are encouraged

When there seems to be no hope?

Proverbs 13:12. *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”*

➤ We can become sick without it.

We can face a difficult situation where see no way out.

Eg Joseph, Job.

Hosea 2:15. *“There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.”*

Trouble turned to door of hope

Personal Reflection

1. How does “Hope” fit into your life, both on a spiritual and a “worldly level”?
2. What can you do to make these hopes a reality?
3. There are many verses about Hope in the Bible. What are some more benefits?
4. How are hope and faith similar?
How are they different?

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand