

# Be the Dispenser of Hope

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Outline:

- I. What is the hope of God?
- II. The Hope of God is given to every true believer.
- III. Be a dispenser of God's hope entrusted to every believer.

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5

**But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

I am coming. Watch for Me. Wait for Me. I will not be late.

I am with you. ... Your work is not yet done. I am the Lord who renews, re-vitalizes. I am your Provider and your Portion.

... My people will be filled with My hope. You will dispense My hope, hope in Me. Psalm 42. (Word received by Mary Craig, December, 2022) See more at [www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org), prophetic section.

- I. What is God's hope?  
God's hope – the confident expectation of the culmination of His redemptive work.
- II. The hope of God is given to every true believer.  
He wants us to put our hope in Him that He might richly supply all things for us to enjoy. Psalm 31:24. (1 Peter 1:13 NRSV), the "**hope of glory**" (Col. 1:27). The **hope of** Christians is brought into being through the presence of the promised Holy Spirit (Romans 8:24-25).

[www.preceptaustin.org/gods\\_word\\_of\\_hope](http://www.preceptaustin.org/gods_word_of_hope)

We are encouraged to hope in God. Psalm 42:11: Hope in God for "I will yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance and my God. Psalm 42:11, KJV" (Psalm 42; Romans 15:13 - Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. NKJV)

**Hope** is waiting in confident expectation for **God's** promises in Christ, summed up in the gospel. **Hope** is fundamental because the gospel concerns **God's** culmination of his redemptive work, "**the** grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed" (1 Pet. 1:13 NRSV), the "**hope of glory**" (Col. 1:27).

<http://www.bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Hope,-In-God>

## **Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 130:7.**

The New Testament idea of **hope** is the recognition that in Christ is found the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises (Matthew 12:21, 1 Peter 1:3). Christian **hope** is rooted in faith in the divine salvation in Christ (Galatians 5:5). [www.gotquestions.org/hope-Bible.html](http://www.gotquestions.org/hope-Bible.html)

The work of God is similar in that the **hope** desired will be that much more glorious when waited upon in the right timing.

... <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:17-20 ESV

### III. Be a Dispenser of God's hope.

We are to instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their **hope** on the uncertainty of riches, but on **God**, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Psalm 31:24.

Cally Logan on Crosswalk.com provides ways to hope in God when feeling hopeless. She writes:

“Hope is the belief that something beneficial is to come, the idea that what is currently seen is not the end of the story, but that something greater is ahead. Hope becomes the fuel for the weary and downcast to dare to believe that the sun will indeed come out again, for those who have lost everything a single thread to dare to believe and hope that there is still beauty in this life to be seen, and it is coming up ahead down the path. Hope in itself is the faith that God does have plans for us, and that they are good indeed. For any single story in the Bible, hope is an important component of the journey.”

[www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/5-ways-to-hope-in-god-when-you-feel-hopeless.html](http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/5-ways-to-hope-in-god-when-you-feel-hopeless.html)

**Romans 8:23-25 says, “Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” NIV**

So what helps us when we feel hopeless, and what helps others when we become dispensers of God's hope?

#### 1. Put your hope in God's unfailing love.

**Psalm 147:11 “the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”** This verse does not mean fear as in terror, rather, those who respect

and honor Him. The Lord wants to pour out His love, wisdom, comfort, and hope to you in moments where everything feels hopeless. Get quiet before the Lord and listen, actively listen.

2. **Be willing to wait.**

That waiting period is not a punishment as many would think it is, rather, it is a time for a change within or work to be done. [Romans 8:24](#) again, says,

***“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”***

3. **Listen to the wisdom of others.**

Seek out those older in the Lord, and if you are the friend, mentor, or God’s person to help someone find hope, dispense that hope in God. [2 Corinthians 1:4](#) **“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.”**

4. **Recall how God has been faithful in the past.**

God is faithful to the Covenant. He is a Covenant-keeping Lord. If you or someone has come to you in a hopeless state, read Psalm 107 together and then share how the Lord delivered you in the past. Here’s how Psalm 107 begins:

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His lovingkindness endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy

<sup>3</sup>and gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

<sup>4</sup>Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no path to a city in which to dwell.

<sup>5</sup>They were hungry and thirsty; their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup>Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress.

<sup>7</sup>He led them on a straight path to reach a city where they could live.

<sup>8</sup>Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness and His wonders to the sons of men.

<sup>9</sup>For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things. Psalm 107:1-9

5. **Leave room for the unexpected.**

God is the God of Great Surprises. When we turn something over to Him, He often moves in ways we had never anticipated. We think in terms of this or that, but God is eternal, infinite, and unchangeable; He is the Creator/Redeemer. No one expected the Messiah to come as He did, yet Jesus was sent by the Father to save. All who put their trust in Him will come to that Blessed Hope, the Hope of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Covenant is God's way of relationship. He is a covenant-keeping God and so keeps His promises. He sent Jesus to be the Savior, the Surety of the Covenant of Grace. Those who are not truly saved can be helped only to a point. God may be working in people's lives to show them their need of Jesus. Only Jesus saves.

People can be members of a church, go forward at some service or gathering, be baptized, be healed, be saved from trouble and survive, see into the spirit world, be very religious, and none of that constitutes saving faith. Someone is saved only by the regenerating and renewing power of the Holy Spirit, born again, a born-out-of-God one. 1 John; John 1.

So when we think or feel that things are hopeless, when others do also, we must go back to basics, to that Blessed Hope, that hope of our calling, our being chosen before the foundation of the world, to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is our confident expectation that what God promises will surely come to pass; it has mostly to do with salvation. Of all that the Father has given Jesus, He will lose none.

We will not be lost along the way. He will find us and bring us back on track. He will deliver us from evil, from our troubles, from our sin, from the snares of the devil, from our own selfish ambitions, and from the world's system that chokes us with the cares of this temporal life.

The Holy Spirit plants this hope in every true believer. It is God's hope. He is faithful, and He also will do it.

And we will yet praise Him, who is the health of our countenance and our God. Amen.

*Mary Craig, D. Min.*

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