

# HOPE

The world in which we live is broken. The sage of old was right when he said, **“vanity of vanities, all is vanity!”** (Ecc. 1:2). The effects of the curse are so widespread that there is no one on the planet who has not been affected by its touch. Man is born into the world to face the reality described by Job who said, **“For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward”** (Job 5:7). Just as sure as sparks shoot upward man will face trouble. He cannot avoid it! Where can he turn when he is confronted with the futility and frustration of this life? Where does he find hope?

The unbeliever has no hope (Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13). Life makes no sense without Christ. All of the issues he faces might be resolved on a temporal plane, but nothing but eternal futility awaits him. The believer on the other hand can and should have hope. We have eternal life (John 3:16), a relationship with the living God (John 17:3), the everlasting truth of God which is all that we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3-4), illumination into the Bible (1 Cor. 2:14-15), the power of the Spirit of God in our lives to quicken us to obey (Eph. 3:16), the hope of heaven (Phil. 3:20-21), and fellowship with other people who share all that we do (1 John 1:3-7).

Even though we have so much to enjoy now, and so much to look forward to for later – we still live in a broken world. Many times we lose sight of these great things which are our soul’s anchor. The storms of life and sin eclipse our spiritual perceptions, and we lose heart. Even though we might be saved, we can very easily get discouraged, quitting the pursuit of our relationship to God altogether.

We see that this earth is polluted with sin, men are corrupt to the core, the devil rages against us on every front, people disappoint us, circumstances overwhelm us, and worse still our inward passions run unrestrained and ride dominant over us. We wonder if there is any relief – any hope of change.

Such is the case with the people who come to us for counseling. They come for help. They want to know if true change is possible! They need to know from us whether they can break the grip of sin in their lives. In a word, they need *hope*.

The great news is that there is hope! If they are coming to God for help, they have come to the right place! His Word, His plan, His power, and His promises all guarantee that change and help is available – they need look no further. Usually when God brings us to this point, we are at the end of trying to resolve things our own way and lack the knowledge and/or resources in order to make sense of our struggles –we need to know how to navigate through the course of this life when times are hard.

What kind of things does a person say who lacks Biblical hope in dealing with life in a broken world?

What is hope, Biblically defined?

➤ **Hebrews 11:1**

➤ **Romans 8:24-25**

**THE SANCTIFIED DESIRE AND EAGER EXPECTATION TO EMBRACE THAT WHICH FAITH SEES, SO THAT WITH PERSEVERANCE THE BELIEVER RELIES UPON THE HELP FOUND IN THE PROMISES OF GOD IN THIS LIFE.**

What does the Bible teach is the value of hope in the life of a person?

➤ **1 Corinthians 13:13**

➤ **Hebrews 6:19-20**

➤ **Psalms 38:10-15**

➤ **Psalms 42:5**

➤ **Isaiah 57:10**

➤ **Romans 5:3-5**

➤ **Romans 12:12**

➤ **2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 16-18**

➤ **1 Thessalonians 4:13**

➤ **1 Peter 1:13**

➤ **1 John 3:1-3**

What does the Bible teach happens to a person without hope?

➤ **Proverbs 13:12**

➤ **Lamentations 3:18**

➤ **Numbers 13:25-14:4**

What are some examples of false hopes?

➤ **Psalms 20:7**

➤ **Proverbs 10:28**

➤ **Jeremiah 6:13-14**

➤ **Jeremiah 23:16-17**

➤ **1 Timothy 6:17**

Where is true hope found?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Romans 8:24**

➤ **Romans 4:13-21**

➤ **Titus 1:2**

➤ **1 Peter 1:3**

➤ **1 Peter 3:15**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Romans 15:4**

➤ **Psalm 119:49**

➤ **Psalm 130:5**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Psalm 62:5**

➤ **2 Thessalonians 2:16**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Psalm 16:8**

➤ **Psalm 33:17-22**

➤ **Lamentations 3:1-40**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Romans 8:28**

➤ **James 1:2-4**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Proverbs 23:18**

➤ **Proverbs 24:14**

➤ **Jeremiah 29:11**

➤ **Titus 2:11-13**

➤ **1 Peter 1:13**

➤ **1 John 3:1-3**

7. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **Romans 15:13**

➤ **Ephesians 1:18**

8. \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **2 Corinthians 7:5-7**

➤ **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

➤ **Hebrews 12:1**

What are some practical ways that you can cultivate hope or stoke it in someone else?