

Necessity of Hope

September 25, 2013

Abraham's example

Rom 4:16-22 For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17(as it is written, "A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU") in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

His faith was in the Word of God:

- v. 16 the promise
- v. 17 as it is written
- v. 18 according to that which had been spoken
- v. 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God
- v. 21 assured that what God had promised

His faith was in who God is; what He does.

- v. 17 who gives life to the dead
- v. 17 and calls into being that which does not exist.
- v. 21 God ... was able also to perform

Hope:

In hope against hope he believed (Rom 4:18)

Hope and faith were in combat.

Faith won and made hope a reality.

Faith reaches up and grasps hope and brings it into the realm of the present.

Hope is always in the future; it is a dream, it is never real. (from EW Kenyon)

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Definition of hope:

"Confident expectation" or "anticipation" - not "wishful thinking."
(from Holman treasury of key Bible words)

"An expectation or belief in the fulfillment of something desired."
(from Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)

My definition = "Looking to the future with a confident expectation of good."

Hope receives the unseen promises of God

Rom 8:24-25 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

2Cor 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor 5:1-8).

Abounding in Hope

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“so that you will abound in hope” which basically means “over and above.” Paul’s understanding of the grace of God in Christ was “over and above,” so too, is the need for believers to walk in this “over and above” grace and love in their daily lives! (from The Study Guide Commentary Series; by R. J. Utley)

Paul uses this term often (26X) in the following ways:

1. Abound in hope
Rom 15:12-13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. God's truth abounds to His glory
Rom. 3:7 But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, ... (Rom 3:5-8 God is righteous, we are proven sinners and not righteous)
3. Grace abounds to the many.
Rom 5:15 For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.
(Rom 5:12-21 comparison of the effects on mankind, Adam's sin versus Christ's sacrifice)
4. Food does not have the ability to make us abound (better).
1Cor 8:8 But food will not commend us to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat.
5. Spiritual gifts enable us to abound in building up (edifying) the church.
1Cor 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.
6. We are to abound in the work of the Lord.
1Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
7. Believers will have abundance of suffering.
2Cor 1:5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, ...
8. Believers will also have an abundance of comfort in Christ.
2Cor 1:5 ... so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. (2Cor 1:3-7)
9. New covenant ministry (ministry of righteousness) abounds in glory above ministry of the Law.
2Cor 3:9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. (2Cor 3:7-11)
10. Security in Christ will cause us to abound with gratitude and thankfulness
Col 2:7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

2Cor 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.
11. Our thankfulness and rejoicing abounds to the glory of God.
2Cor 4:15 For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.
12. God provides for our needs so that we can abound in giving.
2Cor 8:7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

13. Sacrificial giving releases abundance of joy
2Cor 8:2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.
14. Sacrificial giving releases abundance for every good deed
2Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; (2Cor 9:6-12)
15. God wants us to be able to handle abundance
Phil 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Phil 4:18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, ...
16. God's lavished (makes to abound) His grace on us
Eph 1:7-8 ...according to the riches of His grace 8 which He lavished on us ... (Eph 1:7-10)
17. We are to abound in love for one another
1Thes 3:12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, ...
18. Our love is to increase more and more
Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more ... (Phil 1:9-11)
1Thes 4:9-10 ... for indeed you do practice it ... But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,
19. We are to abound in positive attitudes towards those who ministered to us.
Phil 1:26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again. (Phil 1:21-26)
20. We are to abound in godliness
1Thes 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

Hope will abound when you believe:

God is for you.

Rom 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Gen 15:1; Ps 27:1-3; 46:1-3; 84:11-12; 118:6)

You have great value to God.

1Pt 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

God loves us in spite of ourselves.

Rom 5:6-10 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

We have done nothing to receive His grace.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Suffering is a common experience to all of us.

Heb 12:6 "for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives." (Heb 12:4-13)

God gives victory through our trials.

2Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ,
(Rom 8:37; 1Cor 15:57)

Your weaknesses are your credentials.

2Cor 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (1Cor 1:26-31)

Hopelessness - Without hope

Discouragement is the work of the devil to destroy your hope

The tribes of Ruben and God made a request to stay on the east side of Jordan; Moses states that if they fail to go to war with them it will discourage the rest of the tribes (Num 32:1-15). Like **the bad report** of the 10 spies discouraged the people of Israel to take the land (Num 13:25-14:10; 32:8-10).

The enemy seeks to discourage the people through fear.

From restoring the Temple - Ezra 4:4 Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building (Ezra 4:1-5).

From rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem - Neh 6:9 For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, " They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done." (Neh 6:1-9)

Job say's

Job 7:6 "My days come to an end without hope."

Job 14:19 So You destroy man's hope.

Job 19:10 "He has uprooted my hope like a tree.

Job 27:8 "For what is the hope of the godless when he is cut off, when God requires his life?"

The wicked have hopelessness

Pr 10:28, ... But the expectation of the wicked perishes.

Pr 11:7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of strong men perishes.

Pr 11:23 ... But the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

Pr 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Pr 29:20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Eccl 2:20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

Parable of Israel's Assyrian captivity and Judah's Babylonian captivity

Ezk 19:5 "When she saw, as she waited, that her hope was lost, she took another of her cubs and made him a young lion.

Unbelievers have no hope when their loved ones die.

1Thes 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

Eph 2:12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, ... having no hope and without God in the world.

Great trials can make us despair and feel hopeless

Ac 27:20 Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

2Cor 1:8-9 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

Jeremiah

He encourages the nation to follow God, their reply was;

Jer 2:25 ... "But you said, 'It is hopeless! No! For I have loved strangers, and after them I will walk.'"

Experiencing the captivity and destruction of Judah causes Jeremiah to have no hope (Lam 3:1-18).

Lam 3:18 So I say, "My strength has perished, and so has my hope from the LORD."

His hope is restored as he remembers God's mercy and grace.

Lam 3:19-24 Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. 20 Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. 21 This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. 22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

Ezekiel

Ezk 37:1-10 he prophesies to the valley of dry bones; they come to life and become a great army

Ezk 37:11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.'

Ezk 37:12-28 this is fulfilled in the New Covenant through Jesus (David My servant).

How we receive hope

God's Word

Ps 119:81 My soul languishes for Your salvation; I wait (hope) for Your word. (Psa 33:18)

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Col 1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel (Col 1:23)

Tit 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, (Ac 26:6-7)

Relationship with:

God

Ps 39:7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing ...

1Pt 1:21 ... so that your faith and hope are in God.

Jesus

1Cor 15:19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

1Tim 1:1 ... God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,

Holy Spirit

Rom 15:13 ... so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Grace

2Thes 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

Praise and worship

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (Rom 12:12)

Through the experience of trials

Rom 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.