

# Hopeless to Hope

October 9, 2016

## Romans on Hope

### My definition of hope:

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

### Abraham's example - In hope against hope he believed (Rom 4:16-22)

Rom 4:18 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."

### Our beginnings - praising God in hope

Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 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.

### Our growth - The 7 step cycle of growth

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.

1. Trials, tribulations and temptations
2. Perseverance - we don't give up
3. Character - proven character
4. Hope
5. No disappointment
6. God's love - experienced
7. More of the Holy Spirit

### In hope - God subjected creation (our world) to corruption.

Rom 8:18-21 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

### We groan with all of creation (in hope) waiting for the redemption of our body

Rom 8:22-23 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

### We have been saved in hope

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.

### Hope receives the unseen promises of God

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.  
2Cor 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor 4:16-18; Rom 8:24-25).

## The Scriptures give us hope

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.

## The God of hope makes us to abound in hope

Rom 15:12-13 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE." 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.

"abound" - basically means "over and above." (from R. J. Utley)

## Bible examples of people who faced hopelessness:

### The strategy of the enemy is to make us Hopeless

Prov 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

### Previous examples:

1. **The bad report of 10 spies** discouraged Israel to take the land (Num 13:25-33).
2. **The request of 2 1/2 tribes** to remain on the east side of Jordan v(Num 32:1-15).
3. **In restoring the Temple** - to be discouraged and frightened from rebuilding (Ezra 4:1-5).
4. **In rebuilding Jerusalem's walls** - discouragement and fear to stop the work (Neh 6:1-9).
5. **Ezekiel - the valley of dry bones** (Ezk 37)  
Dry bones because they say: "Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished ..."  
The bones come to life and become a great army.
6. **Jeremiah** - Lived through the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple (Lam 3:1-18).  
His hope is restored as he remembers God's mercy and love and love (Lam 3:20-24)  
His hope is restored as he remembers God's word of hope (Jer 29:11-14; 31:16-17, 31-34).

## 7. Hosea

Background: (from The Outline Bible)

Hosea 1-3; God tells Hosea to marry a prostitute; when his wife returns to prostitution, Hosea is to take her back and love her; demonstrating God's never-failing love for His people.

Hosea 4-10; Hosea describes Israel's rebellion, ruin and repentance.

Hosea 11-14; Hosea shares God's invitation to Israel and His hope for them.

Hos 2:15 "Then I will give her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope.

**Background - the Book of Joshua:** The Book of Conquest

Jos 6 - victory at Jericho

Jos 7:1 Achan keeps some forbidden treasure.

Jos 7:2-15 Israel is defeated at Ai because of Achan's sin.

Jos 7:16-26 Achan is stoned to death in the valley Achor

Jos 8 - victory at Ai

**God takes defeat** - the sin of Achan;

**Achor** - "trouble."

**God makes (turns) defeat into victory** - the valley of Achor becomes a door of hope  
the valley of Achor is where Achan was buried in stones.

## 8. Habakkuk - hope waits for God's provision with outrageous worship to God

Habakkuk searches for answers to two questions and is reassured by God.

**Q1:** Will Judah be punished? (1:1-4)

**A:** Judah will be punished (1:5-11)

**Q2:** Will Babylon be punished? (1:12-17)

A: Babylon will be punished (2:1-13, 15-20)

**God speaks** to Habakkuk a NT truth ...

But the righteous will live by his faith (Hab 2:4)

**Habakkuk declares** - In hope against hope:

Hab 3:17-19 Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. 19 The Lord GOD is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places.

## 9. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus

Walking with Jesus brings revelation and perspective, - hope is restored (Lk 24:13-35).

Lk 24:21-23 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.

## 10. Paul - Set your hope on Jesus and not on present circumstances.

Excessive trials led to despair

2Cor 1:8 we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

Hope (in Christ) delivered him

2Cor 1:10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

## How we receive hope:

### God's Word:

I wait (hope) for Your **word** (Ps 119:81).

Through the **Scriptures** we have hope (Rom 15:4).

The hope of the **gospel** (Col 1:5, 23)

The hope of the **promise**, made by God (Ac 26:6-7; Tit 1:2; Psa 33:18)

### Relationship with God:

**Father - God** (Ps 39:7; Rom 15:13; 1Pt 1:21)

**Son - Christ Jesus** (1Cor 15:19; 1Tim 1:1)

**Spirit - Holy Spirit** (Rom 15:13; Gal 5:5)

### Overcoming trials (Rom 5:3-5)

### Grace (2Thes 2:16)

### A heart of worship (Rom 5:1-2; 12:12; Hab 3:17-19)

## Bible description of hope

### Hope is:

#### Good

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,

**Living**

1Pt 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**Blessed**

Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

1Pt 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Our helmet** - the hope of salvation

1Th 5:8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

**Christ in you**, the hope of glory

Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**Hope abides** - with faith and love

1 Cor 13:13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.