



- It's in the simple life of **trusting** God that we experience the wonder of God.
I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him... Romans 15:13 (NCV)
- The wonder of God allows us to live in the **moment** with God, not the **past**.
- We know we're living from God's healing when we seek to live with **grace** towards others.
- We want to cultivate the wonder of God, so we experience **hope** from God.

But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope: God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over). Lamentations 3:21-24

- How you **think** about your future determines how **well** you live your future.

Biblical Hope:

Hope is: A Confident **expectation** based on **God** and his **promises**.

Signs you might be losing hope:

- You become **cynical**.
- You don't have **passion** for your purpose in life.
- You believe the worst case **scenario** for your life because you don't want to be disappointed.
- You disconnect from relationships that **nourish** you.

When we choose hope, we **define** what matters most to us.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy. Proverbs 13:12

- Though culture is **hopeless**, we must be **hopeful**.

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet has said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel!"... Matthew 1:23

"...And his name shall be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:21

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and **was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel**. The Holy Spirit was upon him.. Luke 2:25 (NLT)

36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. ... and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem. Luke 2:36-38 (NLT)

She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. Luke 2:37

Hope comes from:

- Hope comes from our **connection** with God.
- Hope comes from our understanding of God's **character**.
God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act, Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Numbers 23:19
- Hope comes from our grasp of God's **promises**.

17 When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee— 18 God can't break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. 19 It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God.

Hebrews 6:17-19 (MSG)

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. Romans 15:4 (NIV)

22 So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, 23 "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:22-23 (CEV)

How do we keep hope alive:

- We need to **Look Up!**

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NLT)

- We need to **Reach Out!**

On Jesus we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers.

... 2 Corinthians 1:10-11

- We need to **Give In.**

Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NCV)

Live carefree before God; he is most careful with you. 1 Peter 5:7 (MSG)

18 The LORD is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope. Psalm 34:18 (TEV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Have you made any effort this week to live with the wonder of God? Explain.
- Why does the culture we live in need hope? What can we do to share the hope we have?
- In your own words, why is hope so important for our lives? Do you agree with the statement: "How you think about your future determines how well you live your future"?
- How does our hope come from our connection with God?
- Why did Simeon and Anna continue to have hope in their life?
- Why does our understanding of God's character give us hope?
- Why does God's promises give us hope? (Read Hebrews 6:17-19)
- What does it mean to "Look Up" and how does this develop hope in us?
- What does it mean to "Reach Out"?
- How do we "Give in"?

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OTHER NOTES:



Today's Talk..



Hope