

The Gift of Hope . . .

Does hope seem as distant to you as the horizon across the ocean? Are you wondering whether you can ever regain the stability of hope in your life? The first thing to keep in mind is that hope is not a feeling, but rather is a gift to you from God—hope is His anchor that He has already thrown out to stabilize your heart and life.

“Hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
(Romans 5:5)

Q: “Many significant people in my life have let me down. How can I still have hope?”

People fail people. Put your hope in God, who cannot fail.

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.”
(Psalm 62:5)

Q: “I see no future for my life. How can I go on?”

Because God created your life, there is always hope in the future.

“The eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.”
(Psalm 33:18)

Unreliable Harbors

Misplaced hope fails because it is anchored in shifting sand. These are some of the most visible and unreliable places in which people tend to anchor their lives:

Political

loss of faith in government (Psalm 9:15)

Economical

loss of financial resources (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

Social

loss of moral sensitivity (Judges 17:6)

Legal

loss of true justice (Psalm 58:1–2)

Vocational

loss of significance in work (Ecclesiastes 4:8)

Physical

loss of health (Psalm 38:3)

Financial

loss of monetary security (1 Timothy 6:17)

Relational

loss of intimacy (Malachi 2:14)

Religious

loss of biblical basics (Hebrews 10:11)

“The things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

Hope: The Anchor of the Soul

Redemption of Christ

“We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. . . . Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

(2 Corinthians 4:7, 10–11)

Resurrection of Christ

“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.”

(1 Peter 1:3–4)

The Character of God

“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice.”

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

The Promises of God

“No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.”

(Romans 4:20–21)

Key Verse to Memorize

*“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”
*(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)**

Lifelines of Hope

- If you say: “I’ve lost hope.”

God says: Hold on to My hope. (Hebrews 6:19)

- If you say: “It’s impossible.”

God says: All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

- If you say: “I cannot do it.”

God says: You can do all things through Christ. (Philippians 4:13)

- If you say: “Nothing good can come from this.”

God says: I know how to bring good out of this. (Romans 8:28)

- If you say: “I can’t meet all my needs.”

God says: I can meet all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)

- If you say: “I don’t know the way.”

God says: I’ll teach you My way. (Psalm 32:8)

*“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”
*(Romans 8:28)**

Key Passage to Read and Reread

Lamentations 3:19–25

Hold on to Hope— The Anchor of Your Soul

The **anchor** is a symbol of Christian hope.

Accept Christ as your only hope. (Ephesians 2:12)

Never put your trust in what is seen, but hope in what you do not see. (Romans 8:24–25)

Claim the plans and promises of God. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Hope in the redeeming power of God. (Psalm 42:5)

Offer faith and love to other Christians. (Colossians 1:3–6)

Reach out to others so they might know the hope of His calling. (Ephesians 1:18–19)

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.”
(Hebrews 6:19)

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