

## Hope and a Future (Part 2)

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### I. Introduction

### II. Followers of Jesus Can Have Hope.

**Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)** *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”*

**Romans 8:28 (NLT)** *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

- A. Hope is not wishful thinking.
- B. Hope is not positive thinking.
- C. Hope is confident expectation.

### III. What Happens When I Have Hope?

- A. When I have hope, I can get started.

**Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)** *But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

- B. When I have hope, I can live with \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (CEV)** <sup>8</sup>*My friends, I want you to know what a hard time we had in Asia. Our sufferings were so horrible and so unbearable that death seemed certain. <sup>9</sup>In fact, we felt sure we were going to die. But this made us stop trusting in ourselves and start trusting God, who raises the dead to life. <sup>10</sup>God saved us from the threat of death, and we are sure that he will do it again and again.*

**2 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV)** *He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.*

- C. When I have hope, I have the strength to keep going.

**2 Corinthians 4:18 (NLT)** *So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

- D. When I have hope, I can resist temptation.

**1 Corinthians 15:32b (NLT)** *And if there is no resurrection, “Let's feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!”*

**1 John 3:2-3 (CEV)** <sup>2</sup>*My dear friends, we are already God's children, though what we will be hasn't yet been seen. But we do know when Christ returns, we will be like him, because we will see him as he truly is. <sup>3</sup>This hope makes us keep ourselves holy, just as Christ is holy.*

**Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup>*We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup>And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. <sup>5</sup>And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.*

### IV. God's Process for Developing Hope

- A. Have a problem.

- 1. Problems are inevitable.

**James 1:2 (NLT)** *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*

- 2. Problems are unexpected.
- 3. Problems are used by God to develop me.

- B. Practice patience with my problem.

- 1. We try to run from our problems.
- 2. We try to hide from our problems.
- 3. We try to blame others for our problems.

**Psalm 40:1-2a, 4a (NLT)** <sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup>He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. <sup>4</sup>Oh, the joys of those who trust the LORD.

**Romans 15:4 (NLT)** Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

- C. Grow my character through my problem.

**James 1:2-4 (NLT)** <sup>2</sup>*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup>For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*

<sup>4</sup>*So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

**John 10:10 (NLT)** *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*

**1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)** *Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.*

- D. Enjoy hope.

**1 Peter 1:3-4 (CEV)** <sup>3</sup>*Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. <sup>4</sup>God has something stored up for you in heaven, where it will never decay or be ruined or disappear.*

**Lamentations 3:21-22a (NLT)** <sup>21</sup>*Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: <sup>22</sup>The faithful love of the LORD never ends!*

**Isaiah 49:23d (NLT)** *Those who trust in me will never be put to shame.*