

## “First Steps: Hope that Endures”

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### Scripture

#### Romans 15:8-13

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“THEREFORE, I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, (Psalm 18:49)  
AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME.”

Again, He says,

“REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.” (Deuteronomy 32:43)

And again,

“PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, (Psalm 117:1)  
AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.”

Again, Isaiah says,

“THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, (Isaiah 11:10)  
AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES,  
IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.”

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.

### Introduction

Three Types of Christianity - Academic, Dedicated, Devoted

Two Types of Faith - Living or Dead Faith

**Faith: It is complete assurance in the promised, yet unseen.**

### What is Hope?

“Hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.”

Hope, n. “**to cherish a desire with anticipation**: to want something to happen or be true”

What do you think the Ukrainians are hoping for today?

Hope, n. “a feeling of expectation and desire for a **certain thing to happen**”

What do you hope for?

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less than...?

Is there a True Hope as opposed to a False Hope?

**A Story of a Man in a Flood and on a Roof...**

Greek word is *Elpis* -> “an expectation of what is sure”

**Living Hope, n.**

“It is the confident affirmation that **God is faithful**, that He will complete what He has begun and confident expectation which waits **patiently and ardently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.**”

**1 Peter 3:15**

“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you**”

So, what type of hope is that? -> **How can we give an account if we do not know what hope we are talking about?**

**What are We to Hope in?**

**Romans 5:1-5**

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**.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 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.

I hope that God will be glorified **in New Us!**

Paul wrote that **Hope is produced over time: through tribulation -> perseverance -> character -> hope!**

**Which book in the Bible do you think has more verses about hope?**

**Psalm 33:18**

“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness”

**Psalm 39:7**

“And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You”

**Psalm 42:11**

“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him with the help of my countenance and my God.”

**Psalm 71:5**

“For You are my hope; O Lord GOD, You are my confidence from my youth”

**Psalm 130:5**

“I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope”

**Psalm 146:5**

“How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God”

**We learn that God's Person and Word is the Source of our Hope**

**Romans 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**”

**What Else Should We Hope In?**

**Titus 1:1-2**

“Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth, which is according to godliness, in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago”

### 1 Peter 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”

### Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.”

### Hebrews 6:17-19

“God, desiring even more **to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose,** interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, **we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast”

## It Begins with a Calling that Produces a Living Hope

### Ephesians 1:18

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, **so that you will know what is the hope of His calling,** what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

### 1 Peter 1:3-5

“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, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

### 1 Peter 3:8-9

“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose **that you might inherit a blessing**”

Peter was writing about living in a godly manner...with your spouse, coworkers, neighbors, etc. The goal of godly living was that you would receive a blessing from God.

This brings to mind the **Abrahamic Covenant** where God would bless Abraham as He would become a blessing to all nations.

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

“Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And **I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**”

God would bless those who blessed Abraham and curse those nations that cursed Abraham.

The HOPE here was to inherit that blessing from God.

### **It's a Hope Centered on the Future**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:19 -> (writing about the coming resurrection)**

“If we have hoped in Christ **in this life only**, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

#### **Colossians 1:25-27**

“I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 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, therefore, is centered on the Person and continuing Work of Jesus, His calling of us and the promises for the current life as recorded in His word, including His return to the Earth, and those promises that carry on into eternity in glory.**

### **It's a Hope We Need to Communicate**

#### **1 Peter 3:13-16 (Peter is Experienced at this -> Acts 4-5)**

“Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

## **We are to be a People Filled with Hope!**

### **Romans 15:8-13**

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**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** -> “abundantly excessive, over and above, overflowing, greatly surpassing”

### **All Peoples Can Rejoice and Have Hope**

That Gentiles have been grafted into the plan of God for His chosen people, Israel, should be a source of continual joy:

- as David wrote that he would give praise (Psalm 18)
- as Moses wrote that the Gentiles should rejoice (Deuteronomy 32)
- Every nation should praise God (Psalm 117)
- Because a Savior will come to them, too. (Isaiah 11)

### **God's Not Dead, Rejoice!**

You may remember a couple of movies a while back about God not being dead.

He is Alive and We are well because of it...

## Romans 12:10-11

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; **rejoicing in hope**, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer”

## Why?

**Job 19:25-27** -> My Redeemer Lives!

“For I know that **my redeemer liveth**, and that **He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth** and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another”

**Not Only is God Alive...but**

**He is also Able!**

## 2 Corinthians 9:8

“And God is able **to make all grace abound toward you**; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”

## Ephesians 3:20-21

“Now **unto Him that is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

## Hebrews 7:25

“Therefore, **He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him**, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

## Romans 16:25

“Now to Him **who is able to establish you according to my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past”

## John 10:27-29

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**”

### **Jude 24-25 (the Great Doxology)**

“Now to Him **who is able to keep you from stumbling**, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

### **Prayer and Benediction**

#### **Romans 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.