

Doctrinal Studies

Doctrine of Hope

Believers have freedom from hopelessness (I Thess. 4:13). We "...SORROW not, even as others who have no hope..." – The word *hope* refers to the expectation of receiving some good or desired thing.

1. There is rest and security in hope (Job 11:18,19; Psa. 16:9; Acts 2:26). The one who hopes in Christ has the assurance that all is in God's control.
2. There is hope in His mercy (Psa. 33:18; 147:11). The believer can know he will receive mercy from God.
3. There is hope in Him (Psa. 38:15; 43:5; 71:5, Jer. 17:17; 1 Tim. 1:1). When our hope is in the Lord, we will never be disappointed. Happy are those who hope in the Lord. The world can be falling down around us and we can take hope in Him.
4. There is hope in the Word (Psa. 119:81, 114; Rom. 15:4). We have comfort in the failing of others because we can see we aren't the only ones who fail, and we can have comfort in the victory of others because it encourages us that we can have victory in Christ.
5. We can rejoice in hope (Rom. 5:1,2; 12:12; Prov. 10:23). We should manifest hope because we have hope in Christ. It is a witness to the lost and an encouragement to the fellow believer.
6. We are to abound in hope (Rom. 15:13).
7. There is hope of blessings laid up in Heaven for us (1 Pet. 1:3,4; Col. 1:25-27; I Thess. 5:8; Titus 1:1,2; 2:13, 3:17; Rom. 8:16,17; Prov. 14:32). Believers must always think in terms of eternity (Rom. 8:18).
8. The sufferings of this world are nothing compared to the glory of God's blessings in eternity. The Word and prayer are our offensive weapons, but we must be continually wearing the full armor of God also.
9. Hope must be continual. We are to never stop hoping in God and His promises (Psa. 71:14; Heb. 3:5,6).
10. It is a good hope (II Thess. 2:16). This hope is profitable and beneficial.
11. Hope carries with it responsibility (1 John 3:2,3). The one who hopes in Christ must keep himself pure, consecrated, dedicated.
12. Hope is one of the great virtues (1 Cor. 13:13). Hope is a virtue that should be manifested by every believer.

No matter how hopeless things appear to be, the believer can know that God will work everything for his good. As far as God is concerned, there is no hopeless situation. He will use everything for our benefit. Although Christ has freed us, we can become enslaved to hopelessness by falling into Satan's traps. Our hope must be in the Lord!

Some circumstances in a believer's life may never change, but he must not allow this to cause him to lose hope. Remember Romans 8:28, 29. There is always a teaching lesson in every experience we face in life. If we look at it this way, that God is conforming us to the image of His Son, we have hope.