

HOPE ONLY IN GOD

INTRO

We serve the God of Hope who can cause us to not just survive but thrive and have our hearts abound in hope. We have the force of eternal optimism at our disposal. **Heaven's Optimistic Picture Encouraging us.** Hope is one of the three abiding, eternal force in the universe. The amount of hope you have in your heart can determine how you view things in life. Two people can look at the same situations and have two different outlooks. Joshua and Caleb and the 10 spies - one group said we cannot, there are giants, and we are grasshoppers in their sight. The other two said we are well able, the enemy is bread for us. In the story of Goliath - the men of Israel full of fear said, he is too big, we cannot go out against him. David said, he is so big, I cannot miss him. Story of two boys. Their mother said, "we are going to grandma's, go check the car." One boy said, "we cannot go, the tank is half empty." The other boy said, "let us go mama, the tank is half full." It is the force of hope that can enable us to see beyond what is a natural limitation and see God's unlimited resource and ability.

I. **Hope Colors the Way You See Things.**

- A. Romans 8:25, 26 - Hope colors the way you see things because it has to do with the unseen and the future.
 - 1. Hope is an unseen picture.
 - 2. Hope is an inner picture.
 - 3. Hope is a future picture.
- B. Romans 5:3-5 - Experience produces hope.
 - 1. Experience produces hope whether it is good or bad.
 - 2. Experience produces good unseen, inner, future pictures.
 - 3. Experience produces bad unseen, inner, future pictures.
 - 4. Every bad experience you have ever had is designed by the devil to steal your hope.
 - 5. Satan's attack is always against your expectancy (the image or picture inside you.)
 - 6. Very few people lose faith but rather lose their hope.
 - 7. You can have all the faith in the world to provide blessing, healing, etc. but if you lose hope, faith lies dormant.

II. **Psalm 62:5 Our Hope and Expectations are to be Only in God.**

- A. Expectations come from needs.
 - 1. A need is an active desire for something that is lacking in our lives.
 - 2. It is an empty place within our heart or lives where something is missing.
 - 3. Out of our needs come expectations. We expect or look for our needs to be met.
 - 4. When something is lacking or missing in our life, we believe someone or something should meet it.
 - a. We look to things.
 - b. We look to others.
 - c. We look to ourselves.
 - 5. In short we turn our needs into expectations.
 - a. We expect things.
 - b. We expect others.
 - c. We expect ourselves.
 - 6. If our expectations are not met as we hoped we can feel disappointed, unloved, unwanted, unworthy, hurt and even offended.
 - 7. This can lead to sadness, fear, anger, resentment, and despair.
 - 8. From the roots of these negative attitudes can come faulty judgments, vows, and improper behaviors. We make faulty promises inside to ourselves. (We vow to meet the need another way, or vow to never let anyone let us down again.)

9. We will always be disappointed if we turn to others or ourselves to meet needs only God can fulfill. Many have judged others for failing to satisfy their deepest needs but it was not possible. We were looking in the wrong direction, hoping in the wrong direction.
- B. Unrealistic expectations lead to offence.
 1. 2 Kings 5:1-14 - Naaman had a great need.
 2. Naaman expected an audience with the prophet.
 3. Naaman expected to receive his need met his way.
 4. Naaman got offended at God's way of doing things.
 5. He had an unrealistic expectation of determining how God should work in his behalf.
 - C. God is our need meeter Philippians 4:19.
 1. The meeting of our deepest needs is in Christ.
 2. Certain expectations come when we have agreements, covenants, or person's word. We expect them to do what they said. The problem is people do not always do what they said. God will always do what He said.
 3. God's Word is always good Numbers 23:19.

III. The Art of Hoping in God Alone.

- A. Isaiah 40:29-31 - Hoping in God renews your strength.
- B. Psalm 42:5, 11 - Hoping in God will always change your countenance.
- C. Psalm 37:7 - Hope in God patiently.
- D. Psalm 62:5 - Hope in God only.
- E. Lamentations 3:26 - Hope in God quietly.
- F. Hosea 12:6 - Hope in God continually.
- G. Romans 4:20 - Maintain your hope in God by praise.
- H. Hebrews 10:23 - Hold fast to your hope with a profession.

IV. Christ in You the Hope of Glory.

- A. Colossians 1:27 - Christ in you is the expectation of the manifestation of all God has and is.
- B. Romans 8:29 - Jesus is the image of the Father and we are predestined to be conformed to that image.
- C. Hebrews 1:1-3 - That image is in the Bible, it is the hope of glory.