

Hope in God

Focus Verse

Psalm 42:11

Why art thou cast down , O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

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Aim

The aim of this session is to:- Develop and explore our understanding of the Hope we have in God

Objectives:- On completion of this session you will be able to:

- Examine self and identify what hope in God means in one's life.
- Examine how we operate against what we acknowledge as our compass i.e. Biblical teaching v Despair. Presumption.
- Know what spiritual maturity means in these challenging times.

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Key Questions

What is your definition of hope?

What does it mean to you on a personal / spiritual basis?

What is your hope in God?

Hope in God

Hope is a combination of expectations and desires combined.

“For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? (Romans 8:24.)

Despair is the opposite of hope.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair. (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Presumptuous *adj.*: unduly or overbearingly confident and presuming. (See Joshua 7; Judges 14-16 and John 21.)

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Hope is

Having Confidence: expectation, optimism, courage, anticipation, hopefulness, faith

Chance: prospect, likelihood, possibility , promise, potential.

Having a Desire: aspiration, dream, expectation, plan, wish, goal

Want: expect, trust, anticipate, wish, yearn, long, look forward to something.

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- We have an eternal hope in God established in Eden with the promise of a seed and the redemptive covenant contracts.

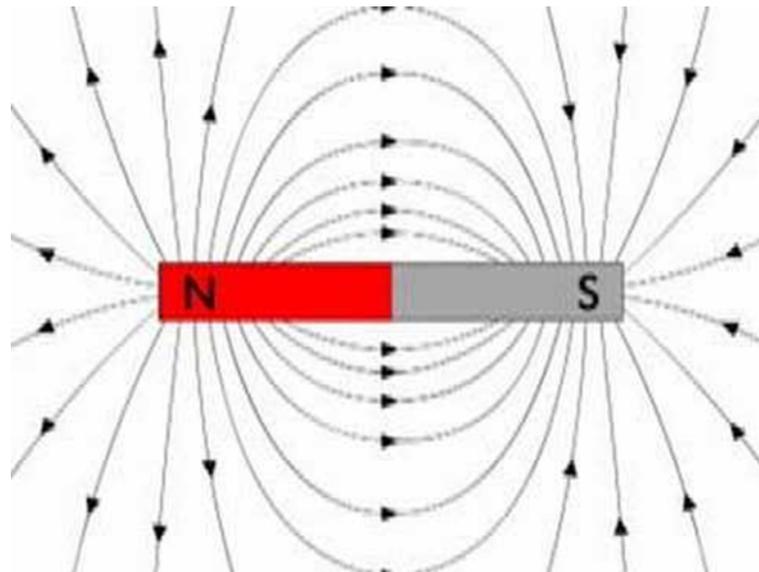
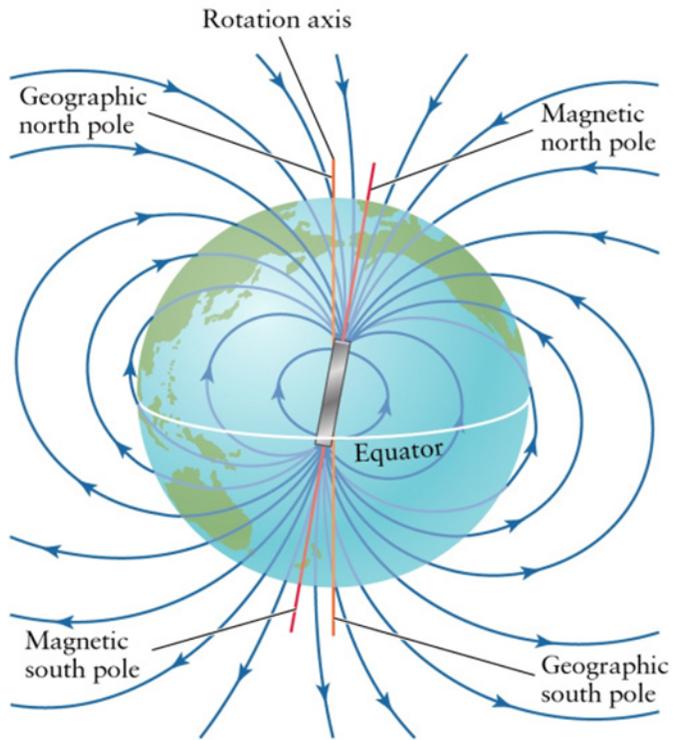
For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope. (Romans 8:20 - NIV)

- From the beginning, He prepared a redemptive covenant, which surpasses time.

*Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, **through the blood of the everlasting covenant**, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

- The covenants of Scriptures confirm that He does not forget your needs: *“That by two immutable things...it is impossible for God to lie”* (see Hebrews 6:10, 18).

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God's nature means that he is attracted to faith

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The covenants of Scripture confirm that God Keeps His promise, hence our hope is alive:

Adamic covenant: Genesis 3:14-19

Noahic covenant: Genesis 8: 20-9:6

Abrahamic covenant: Gen. 1:1-3, 13:14-17; 15:1-7; 17:1-8

Mosaic covenant: Exodus 20

Palestinian covenant: Deut. 30:1-10

Davidic covenant: 2 Samuel 7:4-17; 1 Chron. 17:4-15.

New covenant: Jer.31-33; Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:4; Luke 22:20; Heb.8:8-12.

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The Abrahamic covenant - Historical to the present

Abraham's hope and faith was demonstrated by leaving his fathers' house for a promise, and an unseen land.

He had hope when a seed was promised to him and Sarah in their old age (Genesis 17,18,19).

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Isaac the seed is promised

- Abraham and Sarah was promised a child through whom all nations will be blessed, even though Sarah was passed biologically and physiological age of producing a child.
- They both laughed at the promise
- They tried to do the work themselves'
- Ishmael was the result of self, their own work.
- Ishmael was a counterfeit work of the flesh (LAW) not of HOPE (Grace/FAITH)
- The law = 437 years after Ishmael's birth. Grace, 2000 after Isaac's birth.

The offering of Isaac – the ultimate offering (Genesis 22)

- *“And it came to pass...that God did tempt Abraham...And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest,...and offer him ... for a burnt offering...”*
- *Abraham did not hesitate to begin the journey.*
- *Abraham as intent on carrying out the worship required on returning to the young men. He was confident. (Hebrews. 11: 17-19.)*
- *Isaac's confidence in his father's ability and Abraham's thought for his son are similar.*

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Part 2: Finding Hope in the 21st century



BEULAH APOSTOLIC CHURCH



Hope in God



A Lively Hope

<https://youtu.be/RyKxSCvldm0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyKxSCvldm0&feature=youtu.be>

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Part 3 Living by Faith: Living in Hope

Christian living is governed by the following seven principles

1. Obedience
2. Humility
3. Passion
4. Love
5. Adoption
5. Sanctification
6. Justification

Currently, our daily life is extra-ordinary; we are living in challenging times. How is it possible to show our hope in God?

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Obedient

Followers of Jesus should be ready to obey God and are submissive to His will; they do not behave like Saul.

Humility

Followers of Jesus should demonstrate meekness and suffer injury quietly. Moses typifies the spirit of humility (see Numbers 12). The humility of Christ demonstrates what is expected of church members (Philippians 2).

Passion for God

Followers of Jesus should consistently their passion for Christ; this is about strong enthusiasm and total commitment to robustly promote and defend godliness like Phinehas, Eleazar's son (Numbers 25), and like Elijah, Elisha and Paul. They were devout.

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Love

Followers of Christ whose love for the Lord intensely like David will forever prove Him; their hope is lively (**1 Peter 1:3, 13**) and there is no need to be in despair or disquieted (**Psalm 4:5,6,11; 43:5**).

Adoption

Followers of Christ must remember that water baptism means that we are born into the family of God. This is a privileged position; we grow in grace and refer to Him as Abba. He knows our needs and we are delivered from the flesh (**see Romans 8, Gal. 4:1-5; Matthew 6:5-34**).

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Sanctification

Followers of Christ are set apart because of our position in the family of God (**Heb.10:10**). We do not rely on the flesh (1 Cor.6). The ultimate goal is to become as Christ (**1 John 3:1-3; Eph.5: 26-27; Jude 4-5**). We must be like the speckled bird (**Jeremiah 12:9**)

Justification

The death of Christ has made us righteous: we are acceptable before God whose blood has redeemed and forgiven us from sin (**Rom.3:24-25**) and because of His deliverance, (Col 1:13) we are destined for future glorification (**Romans 8:30**). A better life is ahead.

Christians should not live a life of condemnation (**Romans 5:16; 8:33-34**) ; Christ has paid the price through His death; He atoned for humankind (Romans 8:9). Therefore our faith (**Romans 3: , 25, 28, 30**) leads us to recognise that we are acquitted from our sins and are truly made righteous before Him. Consequently, our faith will lead us to recognise that God will forever be our only hope in life.

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God Responds To Our Faith

As it was with Abraham, so is it with us today. God responds to our faith and this is the evidence of things not seen: Scripture confirms this.

- (i) *“Have faith in God, For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that these things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22-23)*
- (ii) *But without faith, it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to him must believe that he is, and he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb.11:6).*
- (iii) *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (James 1:6-7)*