

## Free to Hope again! *1 Peter 1:1-13*

In this lockdown time there is the danger of losing something most precious – hope!

*In his book “The Anatomy of Hope,” Groopman was asked for his definition of hope. He replied: “Basically, I think hope is the ability to see a path to the future. You are facing dire circumstances, and you need to know everything that is blocking or threatening you. And then you see a path, or a potential path, to get to where you want to be. Once you see that, there is a tremendous emotional uplift that occurs. I think hope has been, is, and always will be the heart of medicine and healing. We could not live without hope.” Even with all the medical technology available to us now, “we still come back to this profound human need to believe that there is a possibility to reach a future that is better than the one in the present.”*

The opposite of hope is fear and fear never accomplish anything

Corry Ten Boom said *“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God”*

### What is Biblical Hope?

*The hope that God has provided for you is not merely a wish. Neither is it dependent on other people, possessions, or circumstances for its validity. Instead, biblical hope is an application of your faith that supplies a confident expectation in God’s fulfillment of His promises. Coupled with faith and love, hope is part of the abiding characteristics in a believer’s life.*

*John C. Broger*

Hope in common English is used in three senses:

A desire for something good in the future, “I hope the sun will shine on Sunday”

The thing in the future that we desire, “I hope they arrive back safely”

The basis or reason for thinking that our hope may indeed be fulfilled.

“Our only hope is that they will arrive before the storm hits”

**But the Biblical Words for Hope are quite different**

Hope is used in the sense of trust in God

*– Psalm 147:11 No, the LORD’s delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

Hope is used in the sense of waiting, enduring or being patient

*- Galatians 5:5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.*

Hope in the Bible could be defined as **confident expectation** or **firm assurance**

*Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1*

**An Old Testament witness would be that of Abraham who waited 25 years for a promised son.**

*Romans 4:16-20 verse 18 says Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*

**A New Testament witness would be Peter**

He said he would die for Christ – **Matthew 26:35**

He denied 3 times that he even knew Christ – **Luke 22:61-62**

He saw the empty tomb but did not believe – **John 20:3**

Why – Guilt, Shame, Fear – He could not get out of his cell.

**What made the difference?**

A private meeting with the risen Christ – **Luke 24:34** and **1 Corinthians 15:5**

A public restoration to service – **John 21**

**Listen to His words to the churches 1 Peter 1:3-13**

Born to a living Hope **3**, a sure inheritance **4**, a present strength **5**,

Resulting in an inexpressible joy and glory to God in salvation of our souls

**Listen to his admonition to the churches and to us – 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.**

**The Biblical Hope is 100% sure**

**1. Because of what it is not based upon**

A. It is not based on human strength, intelligence or honor – all these fail

We have seen through this virus pandemic how weak mankind is.

B. it is not based on human status or wealth – these change constantly

Paul told Timothy to

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17*

**2. Because of what it is based on**

**It is based upon who Christ is – the risen Lord Colossians 1:26-27 The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

**It is based upon His unfailing love – Romans 5:1-5** *Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 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.*

**It is based upon His unchanging Word** (Living Jesus and written Bible)

*Psalms 119:49 Remember your promise to me; it is my only hope.*

*Psalms 119:74 May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word.*

*Psalms 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope*

*Psalms 119:147 I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words*

## **The benefits are enormous**

*Remember the story of the self-made millionaire Eugene Land and how he greatly changed the lives of a sixth-grade class in East Harlem. Mr. Land had been asked to speak to a class of 59 sixth-graders. He thought to himself, "What can I say to make a difference in the lives of these students, most of whom would eventually drop out of school?" He wondered how he could get these kids from broken homes in this slum neighborhoods to even look at him. When he arrived at the school and stood before the class of innocent faces he scrapped his notes and decided to speak to them from his heart. "Stay in school," he admonished, "and I'll help pay the college tuition for every one of you." At that moment the lives of these students changed forever. For the first time they had hope. Said one student, "I had something to look forward to, something waiting for me. It was a golden feeling." Nearly 90 percent of that class went on to graduate from high school!*

**Hope inspires endurance** *We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1Thessalonians 1:3*

**Hope renews strength** *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. Isaiah 40:31*

**Hope strengthens your faith and love** *For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. Colossians 1:4-5*

## **What about you?**

Has this disruption in life stolen your hope and joy?

Do you have fear about your future life or marriage or job or wellbeing?

### **1. Be sure of your salvation – Repent and Believe in Christ**

*Hebrews 6:18-19 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.*

### **2. Hold on to your confidence in Christ**

*Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*

### **3. Proclaim your hope to those around you.**

*1 Peter 3:15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

*"Our world today so desperately hungers for hope, yet uncouneted people have almost given up. There is despair and hopelessness on every hand. Let us be faithful in proclaiming the hope that is in Jesus." -Billy Graham*