
HOW TO HAVE A HOPEFUL LIFE

Romans 15:4

INTRODUCTION

Hope is one Biblical characteristic which should distinguish a Christian from those who know not the Lord. The Apostle Paul wrote that those without Christ "have no hope and are without God in this world" (Ephesians 2:12). You see, even when we are weary, tired, hurting or confused, the "God of Hope" (Romans 15:13) is our God! And we can, as His children, abound in hope!

I. WHAT DOES THE WORD "HOPEFUL" MEAN?

- A. "Having or manifesting _____." --*American Heritage Dictionary*
- B. As a Christian, our hope is _____ found in things, people, or money. Our hope is in the _____ – Psalm 31:24
1. Because we are God's _____ – Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 5:1,8; I Peter 1:14-16
 2. Because He has a _____ for our lives – Psalm 37:23; 143:8-10; Ephesians 5:17
- C. According to the Apostle _____, God's Word was given to strengthen our _____ – Romans 15:4
- D. Many of the Old Testament characters demonstrated _____, including:
1. _____ – Psalm 16:93
 2. _____ – Jeremiah 17:7,17
 3. _____ – Joel 2:16

II. WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT A HOPEFUL LIFE?

- A. A hopeful life, on certain occasions, may _____ hope – Job 6:11
- B. A hopeful life is _____ through _____ and disappointments – Psalm 42:11; 43:5; Lamentations 3:18,21,26; Acts 27:20
- C. A hopeful life acknowledges _____ is our _____ – Psalm 71:5; 146:5; Romans 15:13; I Peter 1:20,21

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- D. A hopeful life is strengthened through _____ – Psalm 119:49,50; 81; 114; 130:5
- E. A hopeful life is grateful for _____ through Jesus Christ – I Timothy 1:1; Titus 3:4-7
- F. A hopeful life looks forward to _____ – I John 3:1-3

III. WHAT STEPS CAN WE TAKE TO PURSUE AND PRACTICE A HOPEFUL LIFE?

- A. Learn to _____ in hope – Psalm 71:14; Romans 12:12
- B. Transfer your hope in God to the next _____ – Psalm 78:1-8
- The failure to prepare the next generation is to _____ – Psalm 78:41
- C. Remember, hope is an “_____ of the _____,” sure and steadfast – Hebrews 6:18,19

“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick...”
--Solomon (Proverbs 13:12)