



Is There Any Hope Left?

Romans 15:13: (NASB) *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*



Hope is perhaps the most vital element of life. With it one can do amazing things, overcome seemingly impossible odds, achieve remarkable results and find true and deep meaning in life. Without hope, we doubt, falter and crumble. Without hope we often leave the greatest achievements unachieved, the greatest discoveries undiscovered and the greatest opportunities unfulfilled. So, what is hope and how can we have it transform our lives?

Hope literally means, “desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment.” **Desire + Expectation**

Biblical definition of hope:

Hope: Strongs #1680 elpis (el-pece'); to anticipate, usually with pleasure; expectation or confidence KJV-- faith, hope

Hebrews 11:1: (NKJV) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

A hope is NOT a wish!



Merriam Webster wish (transitive verb) to have a desire for (as something unattainable) <wished he could live his life over>



 **Hope defined, *What is Hope?* Rick Warren**

- You can exist for weeks without food. I can exist months without food. You can exist several days without water. You can exist a few seconds without air, but you can't live without hope. You need hope to cope! Hope keeps your soul alive. Now, most people don't understand hope. Hope is not some wishful thinking about the future, some pie in the sky in the by and by. You need hope now, you need hope today, you need hope in the morning, you need hope not because you're going to die tonight, but because you've got to get up tomorrow and live.*

Where does hope come from?

- The source of our hope will determine the power of that hope.
- The power of our hope will feed the strength of our action.
- The strength of our action will increase the quality of our life.
- The quality of our life will influence the quality of those lives around us.



Romans 5:1-5: (NASB) *¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and **we exult in hope of the glory of God.** ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

Verses 1-2: These are some of the things that drive us:

- Justification (meaning "made right") by faith brings us peace with God through Jesus. In such a world as this, peace with God is a very good thing!
- Peace with God brings access to God's grace (unmerited favor). We can rely on something bigger than ourselves.
- God's grace brings us the *opportunity to exult the hope of God's glory*. There is something big we can look forward to, beyond just going to heaven.

Verses 3-5: How do we turn the *opportunity* into a reality?

- Because of the spiritual promises, we know tribulation brings perseverance.
- Perseverance brings proven character.
- Proven character brings HOPE.
- This hope lives up to expectation because it is driven by God's love and His Spirit! It comes through our transformation to become more Christ-like.

Is my hope based in higher godly power or is it just a wish in disguise?



What is transformative hope built upon?

One of the absolute keys to a hope that can truly transform people is for that hope to be founded in a unifying belief. Early Christianity had a real problem with this as Jewish Christians rebelled against the pagan backgrounds of the Gentile Christians, and the Gentile Christians rebelled against the restrictive laws of the Jewish Christians. Christianity would have been hopeless if this issue had not been worked out.

Romans 15:1-13 gives us a clear view of what makes hope work. These particular verses are focused on the problem of disunity and lay out several practical and necessary building blocks for Christianity to build a solid structure of hope. For hope to be transformative it must be built on several things: Courage, faith, focus and vision.



🔊) Hope is not helpful, *Hope is Having Desire, Jac Okeeffe (life coach)*

- If you think about it, it's crazy because really all you're doing is setting up an imagined idea about the future as if it's going to bring you something that you don't have now. The thing is, for all that's happening there is the idea of hope running. It's just hope and hope is focusing on the future. It's based on zero because there's no clue of what's going to happen down river, thankfully. In order to run this hope idea, there must be some dissatisfaction with what's happening now. There must be a desire for something better to happen. So, with this concoction, this cocktail, of rejection of what's happening now and running a little subtle desire in the future and then buying the idea of hope, you've got this total denial of what's here and now. The thing is, this is as good as it gets. Right here, right now. This is as good as it gets. This is all there is.*

We think she is trying to say do not ignore the present by longing for the future. Although there are a lot of false hopes in this world, she comes across very negative. But godly hope is based on God's word and direction for humanity, full of goodness and truth.

Unfortunately this audio clip begins to uncover where our present society has gone in relation to any hope outside of one's own mind. We are so tied up in the tragedy of selfish thinking - what is good for me, what I deserve.



Romans 15:1-3: (NASB) ¹Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. ²Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. ³For even Christ did not please himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.

Just because you might have strength does not mean you are positioned to use it. Our hope focuses our strength for use in its service and this often takes courage.

Our hope gives us the courage to walk away from what may have been a previously successful life:

Philippians 3:7-8: (NASB) ⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...

The Apostle Paul was a *Pharisee of Pharisees*, a leader of the Sanhedrin. He was very successful but found a hope that made him walk away from it. What makes someone walk away from his or her previous life? A greater hope!

All hope is not transformative. We are talking about a higher, godly hope.



Philippians 3:9-10: (NASB) ⁹*and may be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,* ¹⁰*that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death...*

This shows the transition between what the Apostle Paul was and what he changed into. He was successful in stature, comfort and control. His previous success was to apply his personal righteousness derived from his interpretation of the Law. His hope was based on the achievement of "doing" the Law.

...the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith - as opposed to being righteous in himself by fulfilling the Law. Paul's higher hope came through Christ, even though he lost his stature and comfort.

Optimism vs. hope, What is Hope? Rick Warren

- *Optimism is often a denial of reality. It's positive thinking, not permanent trust. And optimism is often kind of a Pollyanna attitude that says the sun will come out tomorrow, it's not that bad, it's okay, it's not really as bad as we think it is. Sometimes optimism just denies the fact that, yeah, life really is bad in your life at this particular moment. Hope never does that. Hope is always reality. Hope says yep, it's bad.*



Part of optimism is accepting reality. Optimism cannot change everything but it can enhance. We want it to be a positive tool and not a tool of denial. Hope is built on optimism as a tool of reality.

This hope inspires the courage and fortitude necessary to attain it:

Philippians 3:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹*in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.* ¹²*Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.* ¹³*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,* ¹⁴*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

What is the difference between faith and hope?

We suggest faith and hope are two inseparable parts of the same equation.

Faith = a firm conviction towards someone or something that is deemed credible. We have faith in God because we see strong and persuasive evidence of His being, character, creation and plan.

Hope = desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment. Hope is what faith sees and strives towards.



God gives us our hope - His being, character and creation show us His plan and that plan exudes hope! We give God our faith - our conviction of thought and action - because of the hope He gave us!



))) Our world is broken, *What is Hope? Rick Warren*

- *Now the reason we need hope is because we live on a broken planet. Nothing works correctly on this planet. Nothing works perfectly. The weather doesn't work perfectly. The economy doesn't work perfectly. I don't know if you noticed this or not, your body doesn't work perfectly. No relationship works perfectly, your marriage certainly doesn't work perfectly. Your career, your plans have not worked perfectly. Nothing is perfect on this planet. We live on a broken planet. Because of sin, this planet is out of order and because of that, you look around and see brokenness everywhere.*



Please see the program called "How Much of Our Life is Pagan?" (October 25, 2015). Paganism takes away the "bigness" of God and puts the emphasis on a god in you. Such a perspective produces ethical weakness because ethics are based on what you believe and not on something bigger and stable.

Ethical weakness inevitably produces hopelessness. When there is nothing bigger than you, it is hard to have hope outside of just "you."



Romans 15:4: (NASB) *⁴For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

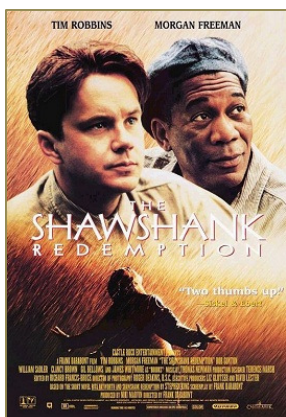
The hope that God gives is given with extraordinary proof so our faith can be SURE! The Scriptures give us evidence upon which to build our faith.

Faith in a clear future hope causes radical action!

1 John 3:1-3: (NASB) *¹See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know him. ²Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when he appears, we will be like him, because we will see him just as he is. ³And everyone who has this hope fixed on him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*



The power of hope, *The Shawshank Redemption (1994 movie)*



- (Prisoner) Look who's here! Maestro! You couldn't play something good, huh? Hank Williams or something?
- (Andy) They broke the door down before I could take requests.
- (Prisoner) Was it worth it? Two weeks in the hole?
- (Andy) Easiest time I ever did.
- (Prisoner) There is no such thing as easy time in the hole.
- (Other prisoner) That's right. A week in the hole is like a year.
- (Andy) I had Mr. Mozart to keep me company.
- (Prisoner) So, they let you tote that record player down there, huh?
- (Andy) It was in here and here. That's the beauty of music, Big. They can't get that from you.



A caller from Connecticut tells a story of three men in a sailboat with a storm approaching. The pessimist says, "We will never make it." The optimist says, "I think we will be okay." The realist says, "Let's adjust the sails." *Psalm 31:1: In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness.*

In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust - but it does not mean we should not adjust the sails. A lively hope is taking action so the future can come to pass. If we do not DO something with the hope, it is really just a wish.

Our hope is strong when it guides us in faith to the unseen:

Hebrews 11:8-10: (NRSV) ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Abraham left his home in faith because he had a greater hope. Faith was the action to pursue the greater hope.

Our hope is strong when it can undoubtedly assure us that we are cared for along our path:

Romans 8:26-28: (Rotherham) ²⁶In the selfsame way moreover, even the Spirit, helpeth together in our weakness,- for, what we should pray for as we ought, we know not, but, the Spirit itself, maketh intercession with sighings unutterable, ²⁷And, he that searcheth the hearts, knoweth what is preferred by the Spirit - that, according to God, he maketh intercession in behalf of saints; ²⁸We know, further, that, unto them who love God, God causeth all things to work together for good,--unto them who, according to purpose, are such as he hath called;

Hope does not go away during present difficulty. We need to find how to focus on it but it is not gone. In order for us to have true godly hope, it takes present everyday effort to remind ourselves what that hope is. God will take care of you each step of the way, but that does not mean it will be easy. Christian hope is not a wish; it requires transformative action on our parts. We want to keep our hope energized and active by reading the precious promises God provided for us in the Bible.

Our Christian hope cannot be achieved
unless our lives are transformed.

Our lives cannot be transformed
unless our faith is active.

Our faith cannot be active
unless it is based in Scripture.





 Your hope is yours, *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994 movie)

- (Andy) Haven't you ever felt that way about music?
- (Prisoner) I played a mean harmonica as a younger man. Lost interest in it though. Doesn't make much sense in here.
- (Andy) Here's where it makes the most sense. You need it so you don't forget.
- (Prisoner) Forget?
- (Andy) Forget that there are places in the world that aren't made out of stone; that there's something inside that they can't get to, that they can't touch. It's yours.
- (Prisoner) What you talking about?
- (Andy) Hope. Hope.

How much more powerful is hope based on scriptural truths if we make that our sole source of hope?



Romans 15:5-7: (NASB) ⁵Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

The necessity for a unified approach cannot be overstated. Acceptance of one another does not mean a compromising of one's conscience; it means a realizing of one's smallness!

Here are three quick steps to aid in focusing our hope: Recognize, narrow your sight and rise above.

Our hope is strong when it is truly recognized - and therein lies meaning!

Recognize the goodness of God and His plan for us:

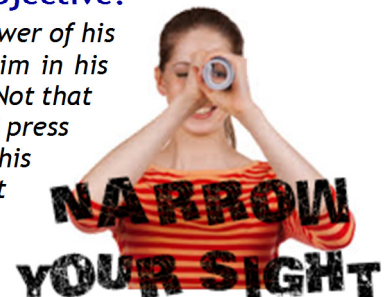
Ephesians 1:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.

RECOGNIZE



Our hope is strong when it narrows and focuses our objective:

Philippians 3:10-14: (NRSV) ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.





We all make mistakes. Dwelling on those mistakes could bring us down and paralyze us from moving forward. We have to learn the lessons, believe in the forgiveness of the blood of Jesus and move forward. This should give us strength to go on without focusing on the past.

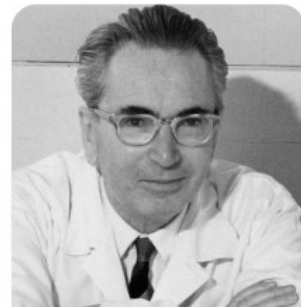


Strong or weak faith, *Belief After Holocaust, Viktor Frankl*

Viktor Frankl (1905-1997)

- *Because either you have a belief in God which is unconditional, which you maintain under each and every condition, or the faith is too weak and sooner or later will/might break down.*

- Successful neurologist and psychologist
- Holocaust survivor
 - deported to camp in 1942
 - lost his wife & family
- Writer of 'Man's Search For Meaning'



This type of faith transcends difficult circumstances.

Our hope is strong when we are lifted above the concerns of daily life:

Matthew 6:31-33: (NASB) ³¹Do not worry then, saying, what will we eat? Or what will we drink? Or what will we wear for clothing? ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What if we cannot see the vision that clearly? Does that diminish our hope?

We received an email this week from a listener: I am going through your archives and really like the teachings. I also like to hear you and Jonathan talk about some of your experiences; it gives the program a personal touch. I also heard a few encouraging words from you and I say, keep it up! We need to hear things about how God is protecting us. Add more!



1 Corinthians 13:12-13: (NASB) ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

We cannot see all of the details clearly now, but we are not *meant* to. Now we are meant to live through faith in God and strive towards the hope of God. This can all be accomplished if we, as a body, strive to adopt in our lives the love that IS God!



A caller from Connecticut asks: Do you think the media and their coverage of all that is happening that is bad, diminishes hope? The terrorists say this is God's will. How do you change the media from talking about it all the time?

We are not going to be able to change what the media reports, but we have the power to turn it off. They have a fictitious idea of what they think "a god" is. It certainly is not God Almighty, which is why we have to strengthen our own personal hope found in Scripture.





The world IS falling apart, but the Scriptures' prophecies explained long ago what would be happening now and in the future.

))) Hope is dangerous, *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994 movie)

- (Prisoner) *I'm going to tell you something, my friend. Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane. It's got no use on the inside. Better get used to that idea.*
- (Andy) *Like Brooks did?*

("Brooks" was a prisoner who was released and ended up killing himself because he could not function on the outside.) Hope is often looked upon in a negative way.



A clearly unified approach based on a clearly unified hope cannot be obtained without a clear vision that any and all "at odds" parties can all see!

If you are at odds but see the same big picture, you can be drawn closer together.

Romans 15:8-12: (NASB) ⁸For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,

Christ has become a servant to the circumcision - The Jewish Christian should have been able to clearly see God's fulfilled promises in Christ and in following Christ. The Apostle Paul was encouraging them to build upon what they already knew from the Old Testament Scriptures.

⁹and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, Therefore I will give praise to you among the Gentiles, and I will sing to Your name. ¹⁰Again he says, Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people. ¹¹And again, Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let the peoples praise Him. ¹²Again Isaiah says, There shall come the root of Jesse, and he who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in him shall the Gentiles hope.

The Apostle saw it necessary to quote many Old Testament prophecies that revealed the role of the Gentiles in the call of Christ. Why? He was paving the way for all to see that all who are called - though they come from vastly opposite backgrounds - are called forward by the same God, through the same Scriptures and to the same calling to follow Jesus. This approach focuses us all on the same hope!

This takes away the shackles that would prevent a unified stance. This approach focuses us all on the same hope, which is why scriptural hope is so important. It was difficult to attain even when the Apostles were around.

))) Job and strong faith, *Belief After Holocaust*, Viktor Frankl

- *Belief, religious belief, as I see it, is to be an unconditional one. The most honest and appropriate approach is that which is about 3,000 years of age, namely, that of Job. After trying to bargain, as it were, with God, he then said, "I shut my mouth. I see I don't know enough to argue with You. You know better..."*



Our world has become faithless. If we do not have a scriptural hope, we will not be able to cope with a world that is this evil.

Our hope is strong when it provokes great self-discipline:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: (NRSV) ²⁴*Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.*



Always be sure to “see” what you are running towards!

Hebrews 12:2-3: (NASB) ²*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

**Great! Our hope lifts us as Christians,
but what about everyone else? Are they left hopeless?**



We received a “good morning” text message through our app from the home where Rick broadcasted from last Sunday.



**"Good Morning
Christian Questions"**

A unifying hope allies us with others of the same hope, even if we are from a different background:

Romans 15:13: (NASB) *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

God IS love and He IS the God of hope - put your faith to work!

Our hope is the last best hope for the world:

Habakkuk 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹*I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; and I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may reply when I am reproved. ²Then the LORD answered me and said, record the vision and inscribe it on tablets that the one who reads it may run. ³For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it, for it will certainly come, it will not delay.*

Why hasn't God destroyed all evil? Wait for it...it will come. It makes sense that the greatest hope the world has ever seen seems to take forever to develop!



Strong faith meant survival, *Belief After Holocaust, Viktor Frankl*

- *Now, this strange thing that most of American theologians seem to forget or overlook is, to my knowledge, better to say to my experience, those who were religious, meaning those who had been religious personalities, the absolute majority in view of the Holocaust, they had to go below themselves and in spite of the Holocaust and what they had to live through themselves. They not only maintained their faith but their belief was fostered, was strengthened, because it had been an absolute one, an unconditional one. While the weak faith was crumbling, the genuine faith was strengthened. This is my personal experience with only a few exceptions.*

Mr. Frankl's observation was that strong faith in God carried people through the Holocaust. When we have no hope, we become helpless.

It also makes sense that the greatest hope the world has ever seen comes in stages:

1 Timothy 4:10: (KJV) *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

These stages will aid the world in making the paradigm shift to be able to accept this hope:

1 Peter 2:9-12: (NASB) *⁹But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

As true and unified Christians, our hope should be so strong in our lives that we see the trials and persecutions that come our way as verifying proof of sonship - verifying proof of our hope, for our hope tells us the world will not see hope - not yet - not until it is time for them to see. We have the privilege of seeing now the hope for not only us but the whole world.

Biblical prophecy is hope. It gives us a glimpse of the future through the eyes of God:

Micah 4:3-5: (KJV) *³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Here one of the great hopes of mankind is actually addressed and fulfilled - no more war!

⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

Here is another great hope of mankind - life without fear and life with enough!



Every man under his vine - remember when Jesus likened himself to the vine and said we are his branches? When man sits under his vine, he will be in effect sitting under the true church, called *the royal priesthood*.

Under his fig tree - the fig tree in Scripture represents Israel. Here they sit under the favor re-established with Israel, the earthly ruling law in the kingdom.

Resurrected man in the kingdom will "sit under" both a perfect heavenly rule and a perfect earthly rule. There is a happy ending to God's plan!

We have the opportunity in our Christian lives to look at God, the Scriptures and the sacrifice of Jesus and see hope beyond the grave, darkness and evil. If our hope is focused exactly on these things, our hope is eternal.

Look at the prophecies, history and how God planned for sin to play a limited role in the development of mankind. Jesus prayed, *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. That is hope and not a wish.

Find the true hope of the Scriptures of God through Christ and the redemption of all mankind!

*So, is there any hope left?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



A little bit more of hope expressed through prophecy:

Biblical prophecy is hope. It gives us a glimpse of the future through the eyes of God:

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) ¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

This is obviously a set of events to occur on earth.

³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

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Here, another great hope of mankind - life without fear and life with enough!



Revelation 21:3-4: (NASB) ³*And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*

Here the greatest longing of mankind - to live without the penalty of death!

Foundations of a true hope:

Hebrews 11:1: (NKJV) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Titus 1:1-2: (NKJV) ¹*Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*

Hebrews 6:13-18: (NRSV) ¹³*When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴saying, I will surely bless you and multiply you. ¹⁵And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. ¹⁶Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. ¹⁷In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, ¹⁸so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us.*

Elements of the above-stated hope:

- God's promise,
- The *unchangeable* character of His purpose,
- It is *impossible* that God would prove false,
- We who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us, and
- We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.



If who God is makes a difference as to how firm our hope can be, then who WE ARE makes a difference in our fostering hope to one another...

(Source: Wikipedia) More on Viktor Frankl from Wikipedia including a startling personal example while a prisoner regarding finding and clinging to hope:

Viktor Emil Frankl, MD, PhD (26 March 1905 - 2 September 1997) was an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist as well as a Holocaust survivor. Frankl was the founder of logotherapy, which is a form of existential analysis, the "Third Viennese School of Psychotherapy." His best-selling book, *Man's Search for Meaning* (published under a different title in 1959: *From Death-Camp to Existentialism*, and originally published in 1946 as *Trotzdem Ja Zum Leben Sagen: Ein Psychologe erlebt das Konzentrationslager*), chronicles his



experiences as a concentration camp inmate which led him to discover the importance of finding meaning in all forms of existence, even the most sordid ones, and thus a reason to continue living. Frankl became one of the key figures in existential therapy and a prominent source of inspiration for humanistic psychologists.

An example of Frankl's idea of finding meaning in the midst of extreme suffering is found in his account of an experience he had while working in the harsh conditions of the Nazi's concentration camps:

We stumbled on in the darkness, over big stones and through large puddles, along the one road leading from the camp. The accompanying guards kept shouting at us and driving us with the butts of their rifles. Anyone with very sore feet supported himself on his neighbor's arm. Hardly a word was spoken; the icy wind did not encourage talk. Hiding his mouth behind his upturned collar, the man marching next to me whispered suddenly: "If our wives could see us now! I do hope they are better off in their camps and don't know what is happening to us."

That brought thoughts of my own wife to mind. And as we stumbled on for miles, slipping on icy spots, supporting each other time and again, dragging one another up and onward, nothing was said, but we both knew: each of us was thinking of his wife. Occasionally I looked at the sky, where the stars were fading and the pink light of the morning was beginning to spread behind a dark bank of clouds. But my mind clung to my wife's image, imagining it with an uncanny acuteness. I heard her answering me, saw her smile, her frank and encouraging look. Real or not, her look was then more luminous than the sun which was beginning to rise.

A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth - that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: *The salvation of man is through love and in love*. I understood how a man who has nothing left in this world still may know bliss, be it only for a brief moment, in the contemplation of his beloved. In a position of utter desolation, when man cannot express himself in positive action, when his only achievement may consist in enduring his sufferings in the right way—an honorable way—in such a position man can, through loving contemplation of the image he carries of his beloved, achieve fulfillment. For the first time in my life I was able to understand the meaning of the words, "The angels are lost in perpetual contemplation of an infinite glory."

Frankl's concentration camp experiences thus shaped both his therapeutic approach and philosophical outlook, as reflected in his seminal publications. He often said that even within the narrow boundaries of the concentration camps he found only two races of men to exist: decent and unprincipled ones. These were to be found in all classes, ethnicities, and groups.