

Good News: There is Hope

1 Corinthians 13:13

We as Christians talk a lot about Faith and we talk a lot about Love but I think I can count on one hand the number of sermons I've heard centered on the concept of Hope.

Love is the greatest
It's impossible to please God without faith

But the Bible doesn't say much about Hope, or does it?

Hope just doesn't seem like one of those characteristics that is spiritual.

Hope

1. the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best:
2. a particular instance of this feeling:
(the hope of winning.)
3. grounds for this feeling in a particular instance: (There is hope of his recovery.)
4. a person or thing in which expectations are centered: (The medicine was her last hope.)
5. to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence.
6. to believe, desire, or trust:
(I hope that my work will be satisfactory.)
7. to feel that something desired may happen:
(We hope for an early spring.)
8. Archaic . to place trust; rely (usually fol. by in).

All of our "modern" definitions sound like a cosmic roll of the dice.

But the Bible doesn't give us the same sense:

Psalm 33:22
Psalm 42:5
Psalm 119:114
Psalm 119:147

Our “modern” definition of hope is much different than Paul’s definition.
Hebrews 11: 1 - 2

This hope is surrounded by phrases like “sure of” and words like “certain”.

Because this kind of hope is based on something.
(and not just odds)

Bible Dictionary’s definition of Hope:

One of the three main elements of Christian character (1 Cor. 13:13).

It is joined to faith and love, and is opposed to seeing or possessing *Rom. 8:24*

"Hope is an essential and fundamental element of Christian life, so essential indeed, that, like faith and love, it can itself designate the essence of Christianity
1 Pet. 3:15

In it the whole glory of the Christian vocation is centered *Eph. 1:18*

Unbelievers are without this hope *Eph. 2:12*

Christ is the actual object of the believer's hope, because it is in his second coming that the hope of glory will be fulfilled *Col. 1:27 Titus 2:13*

It is spoken of as "lively", i.e., a living, hope, a hope not frail and perishable, but having a perennial life
1 Pet. 1:3

Strong’s Definition of Hope:

1) expectation of evil, fear

2) expectation of good, hope

a) in the Christian sense

1) joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

- 2) on hope, in hope, having hope
- a) the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
 - b) the thing hoped for

*Galatians 5:5 *

Things to Mull:

Truth:

1. At this moment in your life, do you have hope or do you not have hope?

2. Why do you have, (or not have) hope?

Alignment:

3. Is hope something we just have or is it something that can be acquired or added on to?

4. How would you get more?

Stretching:

5. How can you encourage those in your group from the hope that you have? Do it !