

Surviving Winter—Hope

Connect

Describe a time when you experienced a season of life when you thought, “I don’t know how this is going to turn out well”?

Dig

Hope gets us out of bed in the morning. Hope is the key motivating factor in our lives. It’s the reason for which we continue to persevere through life in a depraved, sinful world. Some find hope in successfully completing the day’s “To Do” list; others may find hope in an upcoming vacation, warmer weather, a new job, or getting married. Regardless what it is, all of us (in some way) place our hope in circumstances (i.e. material stuff, health, familial relationships).

But Jesus Christ is the true and ultimate hope, and He will not disappoint us. In fact, this hope proves to be the anchor of our souls.

This week, we will take a deeper look at how Jesus is our eternal hope, and how the Bible can ensure us of this truth.

Psalm 33:12-22 (ESV)

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! ¹³ The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; ¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. ¹⁶ The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. ¹⁷ The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. ²² Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

John 16:33 (NIV)

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (Jesus speaking)

Isaiah 49:23b (NIV)

Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed.

Romans 5:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Dig Deeper

1. Promises of Hope

- Look at Psalm 33:12-22, John 16:33, and Isaiah 49:23. What promises do these passages offer those who hope in the Lord?

2. Hope of Glory** (leaders, see commentary at end of study)

- Read Romans 5:1-5.
- In verse 2, what is the “glory of God”?
- What does it mean to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”?
- What is the connection between suffering and hope?
- How has a specific instance of suffering in your life caused your hope in God to be strengthened?

3. Where's Your Hope?

- When you are not looking for Jesus to comfort or help you, who or what do you look to for hope and comfort?
- What does today's society tell us to put our hope in?
- Describe a time when you sought hope in something or someone other than God. Were you disappointed? If so, how?
- God's Word says that Jesus will not disappoint us. How would your life be different if your hope was in Jesus alone?

Next Steps

1. **Identify** those things in which you place your hope.
2. **Choose** one scripture to meditate upon this week, which will point you toward your hope in Christ.
3. **Pray:** *God of hope, there is no greater pleasure than knowing and being with You. You saw us drowning in our sins of self-righteousness and disobedience, and so, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the Savior of those who would believe. This week, fill us with faith to trust and hope in You alone. We are grateful for the promise that we will not be disappointed by Jesus. Thank You for Your eternal hope of glory. In Jesus name, amen!*

Additional Study

What do the following scriptures communicate about hope: Psalm 71:5, Romans 15:4, Romans 15:13, Ephesians 1:18, 1 Timothy 4:10, Hebrews 6:19?

New Testament Bible Reading Plan

Monday	Hebrews 4
Tuesday	Hebrews 5
Wednesday	Hebrews 6
Thursday	Hebrews 7
Friday	Hebrews 8

****The Hope of the Glory of God: Thoughts on Romans 5:2**

“Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2)

What is the “glory of God”?

The “glory of God” refers to God’s splendor, brightness, amazing might, greatness, and glorious being. The focus is on *who God is*, not so much on *what God does*.

What is the “hope of the glory of God”?

This hope, although impossible for our feeble minds to comprehend, centers on three things: (1) A Christ-follower’s future life with God in Heaven forever; (2) a Christ-follower’s right-standing in Christ instantly after death; and, (3) a Christ-follower’s present life with the Holy Spirit in this world as he awaits death or the coming of Christ. Although these three aspects present different angles on the hope we have as Christ-followers, they are hinged on the fact that we live in the presence of Jesus Christ, Himself—today, tomorrow, and forever. And the hope of what is yet to come pivots on the truth that we will actually see Jesus face to face. When we begin to grasp these perspectives of the glory of God, we are transformed to truly experience the hope and joy of being Christ’s own.