

A photograph of a road at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with orange and pink clouds. The word "HOPE" is written in large, orange, outlined letters across the center of the image. The road is dark and stretches into the distance, with a guardrail on the left side.

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5

HOPE

*Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Romans 8:24-25

HOPE BIBLE STUDY INTRO

Welcome to our Series on Hope. In every age, we need this virtue, this gift of Hope that comes from God through his love by the Holy Spirit—as we just heard--and in our present circumstances, the need for hope is more evident than ever.

Biblically, hope took center stage for the people of God when they were under threat from their enemies or were living in exile waiting for God to rescue and redeem them. We find ourselves with similar emotions today, so hopefully you will find this study timely and relevant.

HUMAN V. SUPERNATURAL HOPE

What is THE HOPE that we are talking about? It's not the kind that says, "I'm hoping for a scholarship to college, a new car, a spouse", though hoping for these kinds of things surely has its place in our lives.

Biblical hope goes much deeper because it is grounded in Christ himself and in the Promises of God. St. Paul goes so far as to say Hope is a Person: It is Jesus.

He is our Hope of Glory, hope of eternal life, not just in the life to come, but a life God wants and expects us to live even now, **even in the most harrowing situations. This is a Hope that ties us to himself, binds us with cords of love, guards us in times of trouble and distress, is a shelter for us.**

ANCHOR

The New Testament letter to the Hebrews (chapter 6) exhorts us to

Seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters (reaches) into the inner shrine behind the curtain (meaning the Holy Of Holies, where God's presence and glory dwelt in the Temple), where Jesus has gone before us on our behalf...

Talk about being tied to Christ!

So, this hope is based on Christ Himself and God's Promises.

In Sacred Scripture, there are many promises, chief among God's promises to those who belong to him and trust him with their lives are:

- a. To be with us always
- b. To not leave us orphans
- c. To send the Holy Spirit to us and
- d. To gather us back to himself at the end.

And the Good News for us in our present situation is this:

WHEN WE ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, THEN OUR HOPE BECOMES PALPABLE BECAUSE WE REALIZE GOD LIVES WITH US IN THE PRESENT MOMENT.

OUR LIVES ARE HIS--AND HE IS ACTING ON OUR BEHALF--AND WILL BRING GOOD OUT OF OUR SITUATIONS. WE REALIZE OUR LIVES HAVE MEANING AND PURPOSE.

We are not a passive player in the story, drifting in a world of chance, victims of fate. No, God is with us in all things, and therefore nothing in our lives is inconsequential. Whether initiated by God or allowed by God, everything in our lives is being woven into a beautiful tapestry, even if we cannot yet perceive it. God's purposes will prevail even when we think no good could come out of our circumstances, just as the Resurrection of Jesus was *unstoppable* even though Jesus' enemies thought they had triumphed in bringing about his death. GOD HAD THE FINAL SAY. *So too with us*. He makes us victors not victims, he gives us the ability to act with his grace and inspiration to make our circumstances better or make us better in the midst of them.

As Hebrews 6:11ff says

...Show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Our hope gives way to peace and joy that are unshakeable as we possess this hope with confidence.

We believe the Promises of God are true because we believe God can be trusted. He is utterly faithful and because Jesus, in the likeness of his Father, has proven God's fidelity to us through his total self-giving on our behalf.

Our CONFIDENCE is in the Person of Jesus and his proven love for us "that while we were still sinners, he died for us." And this is what we should remind ourselves every time we see the Crucifix: God's Promises are true. They can never fail because his Promises are like the One who made them: **eternal**. Jesus sealed or guaranteed them with His precious blood on the Cross and our hope therefore is real because he is still with us now and will be forever. In brief, our hope is sure and certain because our Hope is ultimately in the Person of Jesus.

And As St. Paul says poetically, every promise of God comes to fruition in Jesus, "Yes" and "Amen"...His saying

...yes to coming to earth, yes to living among us in poverty and vulnerability,

...yes to taking on the mantle of ministry to the lowly and great alike,

...yes to dying an ignoble and treacherous death on the Cross, to rising, to ascending, to sending Holy Spirit,

...and yes to remaining with us to the end.

God promises to be with us and to carry us with him until we behold him face to face.

What is Our Part to Possess this Amazing Virtue?

1. Choose Hope—put trust in Lord: Romans 15:13 NIV

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you **trust in him**, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

2. Call on the Lord with confidence and seek him with all your heart and ask the Holy Spirit for help. Jeremiah 29:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me...

3. Remind yourself of the Promises of God. See the Sacred Scriptures at the end of this document; take one a day, chew on it, let it ruminate in your soul, write down any insights you have that you can return to those pearls when you are in need of encouragement.

Going forward each day we'll do an approx. 5 minute reflections on a New Testament Scripture story that demonstrates hope. If you can, prayerfully read ahead to get the most out of the stories and the study.

Segment 1

Hope in Times of Needed Healing

Woman with the Issue of Blood Mark 5

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

This is a very familiar story which, when understood in its context reveals an even greater meaning. When Jesus returns to the center of his ministry, Capernaum, the synagogue office, Jairus, pleads with Jesus to come heal his 12 year old daughter who is on the brink of death. While on their way, a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years reaches out to touch Jesus' garment and is instantly healed.

- According to Jewish law, she was ritually unclean due to her loss of blood which meant
- Anything she touched became unclean, including furniture which then became unclean to others
- She could not be touched even by her family. Can you imagine: No human contact for 12 yrs., even with the closest among you, not being touched or

allowed to touch those closest to you. The lack of affection for that long alone had to be deadly.

- She went to doctors seeking every cure available, spent all she had and was not better, only worse. As Dr. Mary Healy wrote in her commentary. this woman must have felt her life draining away.
- No one would want to get near her for fear of being made unclean and cast outside of the worshipping and human community!
- This poor woman had essentially been quarantined for 12 years! (Puts our situation in perspective!)
- She is just desperate enough to go into the crowd stealthily and seek as private a cure as possible by touching the hem or tassels of Jesus' garment. Why? The tassels there represented the law and they were worn by the person she must have inwardly believed was Messiah. There was a first century belief there would be healing in the Messiah's tassels.
- She is immediately healed and feels it, but she wasn't the only one who felt it. Jesus felt power leaving his body. Greek word for power here is *dunamis*, where we get our word "dynamite". Her hopes for a private cure were suddenly exposed.

You see, it wasn't enough for Jesus to heal her physically. Surely he could have kept walking and she could have gone on her way, but instead he calls her to himself. He wants her anchored to him. He wants a relationship with her—to gaze on her face to face. He calls her, "Daughter". How tender! **She wanted something physical. He wanted to give her something eternal.** Her hope could now be fixed on that relationship of love Jesus offered her.



Like the woman, all of us are in need of some sort of healing. Maybe that has come to light in *our* period of quarantine. All of us need the Lord to make us whole and to lead us to the greatest fulfillment of hope, life with him forever that, like with the woman, begins here and now. Let us reach out and touch the hem of his garment, with hope in our hands, and experience the healing from his heart.

Segment 2

Hope in Times of Darkness

Blind Bartimaeus from Mark 10

On his way to Jerusalem to undergo his Passion, Jesus visits Jericho...

⁴⁶ As he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they said to him "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." ⁵⁰ He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied, "Master, I want to see." ⁵² Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

- There is much irony in this story: Where many others likely do not really recognize who Jesus is, blind Bartimaeus does: the Son of David, royal Messiah.
- Though people in the crowd try to silence Bartimaeus, he is not dissuaded. He only shouts the Louder...and his voice is heard. **His hope in Jesus will not be drowned out by the crowd.** In fact, Jesus tells his oppressors to bring Bartimaeus to him. He turns his oppressors into the man's attendants! His chutzbah pays off!
- Bartimaeus' actions speak volumes: First he shouts to Jesus, throws off cloak, springs up and comes to Jesus. Each of those actions are significant:
 - a. Throws off his cloak (former way of life=comfortable, what he depended on), he trusts something new and good is going to happen through Jesus for him.
 - b. He springs up. As his HOPE springs up, his body follows!
 - c. He eagerly comes to Jesus
 - d. And in this spirit, he asks Jesus for his sight. **He knew his need and he believed Jesus could do it and would do it.** Somehow, he had confidence, "hope unseen".

What does he do when Jesus tells him to "Go on your way" but follow Jesus along HIS way to his passion, death and resurrection. *He not only wanted healing, but*

he wanted Jesus the Healer. He wanted to follow him closely. It wasn't going to be easy. The path with the Lord is not easy, but he must have sensed that **what would be gained** far exceeded whatever would be suffered to achieve it.

What about us?

Do we believe Jesus is Lord, the Messiah, by letting him be Lord of our lives, leading and guiding?

If so, and we know our need well, shall we not cry out to him?

And if we know him well, that he wants to draw near to us, will our hope not be stirred and fan our faith into flames?

Will we not be unpersuaded by other voices, throw off our cloak of comfort or complacency, spring up and present ourselves before his outstretched arms and open heart? He who is our Hope?



Let us pray that the Lord open our eyes, that we might see where he is leading us during this difficult time in the haze of the current pandemic, that we might follow him along the way, no matter where it leads, even through suffering. And even if we cannot see clearly at times, we still trust in hope the One who is our Hope, knowing that he has our best interests in mind.

As St. Paul says to the Corinthians:

2 Cor 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Segment 3

Hope in Times of the Storm

Jesus Asleep in the Boat from Mark 4

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The disciples are afraid for their lives filled with fear for what could be imminent harm and/or death. They felt especially vulnerable because, as skilled as they were on the water, particularly fishermen who spent their life at it, this was completely beyond their skills and control.

Who could fault them from a natural standpoint as the boat was filling with water? And who can blame them for crying out in desperation? If ever the disciples needed an **emotional anchor** in the storm, any hope of survival, it was now, and that Anchor was Christ.



We have to give them credit, even if their faith was small, their Savior was not-- and they knew who to go to! Jesus is in control **even in his sleep**. He is entirely at peace in his Father's hands with complete trust. He stands and in that confidence he commands all to be calm... And it is.

The Present Storm:

Here we are in the midst of the storm of this virus, in the midst of oftentimes panic and fear whether in us or around us. We feel threatened, as this situation is beyond our control and we are

left feeling vulnerable because, even with all our knowledge and skill, so much is unknown and unpredictable. And the call for us is the same as it was for them, to draw near to the Lord and to cast our prayers and concerns upon him with confidence in his saving love. He who is the prince of peace will dispense that peace especially to those he has chosen as his own. He grants them the very peace that lives within **him**. And that peace comes from his complete surrender and communion with God the Father. Just as he did for those first disciples, he invites us into to rest in that very peace, a divine peace, a peace the world cannot give, a peace the only Jesus can give.

How does that peace come? In these ways (among others):

1. It will come to us in the same way it came to Jesus: to, as much as is possible for us (with grace) to surrender to and remain in communion with his Father.
2. Rejoice in the midst of trials and uncertainty

St. Paul tells us in Phil 4:

⁴ Rejoice^[d] in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Your kindness^[e] should be known to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. ⁷ Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

3. Let us remember, God the Father has placed ALL things under Jesus' feet, he has given him authority over things in heaven and on earth. Instead of fretting, spend time RESTING in his quiet presence. Listen for his voice.

It was his voice that brought the calm. Take time to quiet ourselves to listen to him say to our soul, "Quiet, be still. I am here. I have not left you, nor forsaken you. I will not abandon you even in the face of death. Give everything over to me...and trust."

4. Finally be assured that when you cling to him, it brings delight to the heart of God, just as you delight in holding a child who needs your comfort during a storm.

Ps 147:11 NIV

The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Segment 4

Hope in Times of Grief and Loss

Mary Magdalene in Garden Tomb Looking for Jesus' Body from John 20

Today we reflect on the very tender story of Mary Magdalene meeting the Risen Lord at the garden tomb where she comes to show honor and care to his body.

When she discovers his body is no longer in the tomb, she is beside herself with grief:



¹¹ Mary stood weeping outside the tomb...she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to "Rabboni!" ¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

"She turned around and saw Jesus standing there". The Enduring Word commentary pointed out that "Mary wondered and worried about where Jesus was, but He wasn't far away. "

Because she is in a place of grief, she cannot see Jesus for who he is, so she mistakes him for someone else. She does not fix her eyes on him until she hears him calling her name.

Again, the Enduring Word commentary observed “Jesus didn’t reveal Himself to Mary by telling her who *He* was, but by telling her who *she* was to Him.” And just how important was she? In John’s gospel, she is the very first one Jesus chose to reveal himself in all his resurrected glory, even before the 12. Perhaps it is because she most earnestly sought him, perhaps more than the rest.

When he calls her name, she replies, not *Rab* a title of honor (though not high), not *Rabbi* (an even more honorable title), but *Rabboni*, meaning “my great master and most honorable of all,” a title given to only 7 Jewish people of great eminence. She was proclaiming him her Lord and Master. And in her joy and homage falls at his feet.

Jesus surprisingly says,

“Don’t cling to me”—there’s something more, something forward pointing in his statement. “Don’t hold on to what was, behold I am doing something new”. Things aren’t going to be as they were, but there’s something better to come. You’re getting a taste of the kingdom, but it’s complete fulfillment is not yet—*hang on in hope!*

How about us?

There are all kinds of losses for which we might be presently grieving, not just the loss of a loved one to death, but loss of community, companionship, church family if we are too at risk to go out, and some a loss of employment.

In our grief, in our weeping, let’s not lose hope because we have not lost our Savior. He stands before us, even at times unrecognized. (As in the story of Jesus asleep in the boat, we might have thought he was “asleep”, unaware or unconcerned about our predicament, but *it might be us who are asleep*, unaware of his Presence.) Hear him calling your name. He has not forgotten you nor forsaken you.

We are being called to be like Mary and earnestly seek the Lord who wants not only for us to find him but to be found by him.

It is what St. Peter calls a LIVING HOPE. It is not a one-time, stagnant hope, but a hope based on intimacy with the LIVING GOD. It is alive in that it is based on the Jesus, Alive and Risen from the dead, who gives us an eternal relationship of love that will be consummated when his work in us is complete.

St. Peter says we look forward to ***an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*** 1 Peter 1. Yes, we have much to look forward to in heaven and that keeps our hope buoyed up, but don't forget to relish the hope that lives in you by your relationship with the one who is your Hope, Jesus our Lord.



Segment 5

Hope in Times of Need Restoration

Peter meeting Jesus after the Resurrection on the Seashore from John 21

As we spoke of in the intro segment, our hope is not based on anything transient, but something eternal, on Jesus himself and on the faithful promises of God.

When you think about it, God has really done it all: Initiated a relationship of love with us by creating us for himself; he gave us life and all we needed to live it in abundance both materially and spiritually and, when we have failed to live up to all we were meant to be, God has continuously sought to restore us and reconcile us, to draw us back, to make us whole.

In the Garden of Eden, after the Fall of Adam and Eve, God came looking for them to draw them back into a right relationship with him but they ran because sin had darkened their minds and they misunderstood his intentions. We've been running ever since and, now just as then, God has chased us out of his love to our present day, especially through the sending of his Son and his death on the Cross. We can have HOPE in restoration because it has FOREVER been God's desire to restore us to himself.

And one of the most beautiful examples of that restoration is today's story.

Here's the background

The apostles are restless, waiting for Jesus to appear again and prompted by Peter, several of them go fishing overnight but caught nothing.

Jesus (earlier in John's gospel) already offered the apostles his peace and forgiveness, but there was still unfinished business in Peter's heart after having denied Jesus three after Jesus' arrest.

Jesus appears on the seashore. Going back to the original manuscripts in Greek gives us a deeper insight into what took place between Peter and Jesus that morning.

Let's go through the story and I'll pause and explain.

When it was already dawn, Jesus was standing on the shore; but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children,

have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." So he said to them, "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something." So they cast it, and were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish. So the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." Simon tucked in his garment, and jumped into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat. When they climbed out on shore, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it and bread...Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." ...When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,* "Simon, son of John, do you **love** [agapeo=divine love] me more than these?"* He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I **love** [phileo=brotherly/friendship love] you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** [agapeo] me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I **love** [phileo] you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you **love** [phileo] me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you **love** me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I **love** [phileo] you." [Jesus] said to him, "Feed my sheep."

What's going on here?

Does Peter mishear Jesus or could it be that Peter has finally come to terms with his own failings after his three-fold denial, so as to be completely honest with the Lord. "I love you, Lord, but not enough."

Notice how Jesus responds. He doesn't condemn Peter but meets him where he is. He still gives Peter his marching orders. Peter undoes the three-fold denial with an honest three-fold affirmation of his love for Jesus. Jesus sets Peter free, not to just go his merry way, but to follow Jesus in order to lead the apostles and the rest of us. Now isn't there hope in that for us too?

If Jesus can restore Peter after he denied him publicly three times, Jesus can restore us no matter where we've been or how badly we have fallen. We like Peter should have the freedom to admit, *"I love you, Lord, but not enough. Help me to love you with the same love with which you love me. Let me follow you, feed your lambs, tend and feed your sheep. Let me be your 13th apostle. My hope is in you."*

Thanks for joining me for this series. Please feel free to share with others you love who could benefit from it.

And may the hope that does not disappoint always rise anew in your heart every morning by the power and love of the Holy Spirit.



CLOSING PRAYER

*Today, Cling to Christ,
the Anchor of your soul,
whose hope is ever present,
whose promises never fail.*

*The God who is with us,
who is for us,
who will never leave
nor forsake us.*

*You are his, who is our Hope,
and that Hope is yours in Him.*

SCRIPTURES ON HOPE

Romans 5 RSVCE

³ More than that, we^[d] rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Psalms 147:11 NIV

the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Hebrews 6

seize the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters [reaches] into the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...

Romans 5 RSVCE

¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations; as he had been told, "So shall your descendants be."

Romans 8

We wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ **Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[g] the Spirit **intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.** ²⁸ **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,**^[h] **for those who are called according to his purpose.**

Romans 12 RSVCE

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² **Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**

1 Peter 1 RSVCE

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been **born anew to a living hope *through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*** ⁴ **and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...**

1 Peter 3 RSVCE

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. [**Peter expects us to have this hope**] Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Psalms 33

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.

Jeremiah 29

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, **to give you a future with hope.** ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ **When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,** ¹⁴ **I will let you find me,** says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Colossians 1

But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, ²⁷ to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory.

Ephesians 1:18 NIV

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

Isaiah 40:31 NIV

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.

Romans 15:13 NIV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:12 ESV

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

2 Cor 4 NIV

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

1 Pet 1:3-6 NIV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living** hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 ESV

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

Psalms 62:5 ESV

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

Psalms 71:14 ESV

But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

Psalms 43:5 ESV

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

2 Corinthians 1

²⁰ For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.