

YEAR OF GROWTH

HOPE WEEK 1

EXPLANATION

Definitions:

There are several different Hebrew words that are translated as “hope.” These give us a broad and vivid description of this characteristic. [1] “To trust or confide in; confidence; sure and firm hope” [2] “To trust in for safety and protection; a refuge or shelter” [3] “To wait; a long and patient waiting, still expecting and earnestly desiring, though hitherto exercised with delay and disappointment” [4] “The loins; hence, hope – what a man depends on” [5] “To stretch out the mind in a straight direction towards an object of hope or expectation; to hope strongly, and to wait steadily and patiently till it is effected” [6] “To look attentively in expectation”

The Greek word translated “hope” means, “To expect or confide; to wait for with joy and full confidence; joyful and confident expectation.” Thus, biblical hope is desire joined with expectation. Yet it also includes the idea of a patient waiting that involves endurance.

Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the previous lessons concerning faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, love, and joy. Among all these characteristics we must add hope. The Bible has much to teach about hope. Think upon the definitions of the words that God used to describe hope. Pray for wisdom in understanding this characteristic. Pray for strength as you prepare for this study.

Day Two – Monday

Romans 8:23-25

This passage gives a beautiful description of hope. It involves waiting with patience. Yet there is an expectation joined with one’s desire. The result is that one is saved by hope. The expectation maintained with endurance encourages faithfulness that produces salvation.

Day Three – Tuesday

Philippians 1:19-24

Though he was in prison, Paul maintained his hope in God. He knew that things would work out for his salvation – whether deliverance from prison or victory in death. Note that Paul’s hope for Heaven was just as strong as his hope for freedom. Thus, he waited patiently.

Day Four – Wednesday**Colossians 1:3-8**

The Colossian Christians had a hope of Heaven. The source of this hope was the truth of the Gospel. True hope must be based in Truth. Because the promises of God are sure and certain, the Christian has an expectation of receiving them. Thus, hope is not merely wishful thinking. It is an expectation based upon the character of God and the knowledge of His Word.

Day Five – Thursday**Colossians 1:21-29**

The hope of a Christian is “the hope of the Gospel.” Because they are based upon Truth, the Christian’s life, faith, and hope are grounded and settled – built upon a firm foundation. The Christian lives in fellowship with Jesus – “Christ in you” – and this is the hope of glory. Obeying the Gospel brings salvation from sin which produces fellowship with Jesus that gives the hope of eternal glory!

Day Six – Friday**2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

The child of God has hope through grace. We are called by God through the Gospel. This is a manifestation of His grace. He makes salvation available and gives it to those who answer His invitation. Thus, the Christian’s hope is grounded in Truth and founded upon the grace of God.

Day Seven – Saturday**Ephesians 2:11-13**

Without Jesus, there is no hope. Those who were without Christ and without God were also without hope. However, in Jesus, those who were separated from God are now brought near to Him. Salvation is possible by the grace of God. Thus, the Christian has hope that is founded upon Jesus.