

About in Hope; Romans 15:13

I. Hope

- a. Looking forward with confident expectation that something will (or has) happened
- b. Our society is full of hope
 - i. My truck is in the shop
 - ii. I have a confident expectation that it will be fixed and returned to me
 - iii. My kids should have a confident expectation that I will take them to the new aquatic center sometime in the future
 - iv. But that is not the hope that Paul mentions to the church in Rome
 - v. That is not the hope he is talking about when he says, “the God of hope,” or “abound in hope”
 - vi. Romans 15:12 (ESV) ¹² And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”
 - vii. This is true hope
- c. True Hope is a defining characteristic in Christians

II. Faith and Hope

- a. Hebrews 11:1–2 (ESV) ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.
- b. If faith and hope are linked, and those ‘heroes of faith’ received their commendation through faith, what was their hope in?
 - i. Hebrews 11:24–26 (ESV) ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.
 - ii. Hebrews 11:13–16 (ESV) ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
 - iii. It is clear to me that God showed them (somehow) the fulfillment of the promise He gave them
- c. The entire Old Testament was written to give us hope
 - i. Romans 15:4 (ESV) ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
 - ii. The entire OT points to Jesus
 - iii. John 5:39 (ESV) ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

- d. Without faith, it is impossible to have true hope
 - i. True hope is the confident expectation of Jesus' resurrection and return
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:3 (ESV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - iii. Our faith in Jesus as the Son of God relies completely on His resurrection from the dead, on the empty tomb
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 15:12–14 (ESV) ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
 - v. 1 Corinthians 15:17–19 (ESV) ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

III. Without Hope

- a. Unfortunately, many in society have misplaced their faith and therefore their hope also
- b. Often, we trust our own ability
 - i. In doing so, we forget from whom we received that ability
 - ii. Exodus 31:1–6 (ESV) ¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, ⁴ to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, ⁵ in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. ⁶ And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you:
 - iii. I cannot imagine David trusting in his own ability to defeat Goliath (David was somewhere between 15-20 years old)
 - iv. 1 Samuel 17:36–37 (ESV) ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.” ³⁷ And David said, “The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the LORD be with you!”
 - v. 1 Samuel 17:46–47 (ESV) ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.”

- vi. Everything we have (our talents and abilities) has been given to us by God for use in His Kingdom; not to be spent on ourselves for our own selfish desires
 - c. We cannot save ourselves
 - i. If we hope in anything but Jesus, we are without hope
 - ii. Ephesians 2:11–12 (ESV) ¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
 - d. Therefore, Paul tells the church in Rome, “abound in hope”
- IV. Abound in Hope
- a. We cannot misplace our hope in our own abilities since we cannot save ourselves
 - b. Romans 15:13 (ESV) ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
 - c. To have an abundance, to be rich (in hope)
 - d. To abound in hope is also to abound in faith (since our hope is in the resurrection of Jesus)
 - e. Who have you placed your hope in?