

# HOPE

1. Definition 1: the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best (dictionary.com) “worldly” hope

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was **hoping** to see some sign done by him. (Luke 23:8)

At the same time he (Felix) **hoped** that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. (Acts 24:26)

Even Paul sometimes used it in this sense: I **hope** to come to you soon... (1 Timothy 3:14)

Definition 2: the confident expectation that God will keep His promises. “Godly” hope

2. Those who are apart from Christ have no hope  
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do **who have no hope**. 1 Thessalonians 4:13  
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. Ephesians 2:12
3. In the NT, hope almost always has an eschatological focus
  - a. The return of Christ:  
...set your **hope** fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:13  
waiting for our **blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ Titus 2:13
  - b. Resurrection:  
And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this **hope** we were saved. Romans 8:23-24a
  - c. Renewal of creation:  
For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in **hope** that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:20-21
4. What is our hope based on?
  - a. The Scriptures:  
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**. Romans 15:4
  - b. God’s character:  
so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is **impossible for God to lie**, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the **hope** set before us. We have this as a

sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a **hope** that enters into the inner place behind the curtain  
Hebrews 6:18-19

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have **hope**: The **steadfast love** of the Lord never ceases;  
his **mercies** never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your **faithfulness**.  
Lamentations 3:21-23

5. What are the effects of hope?

a. Purification from sin:

And everyone who thus **hopes** in him purifies himself as he is pure. 1 John 3:3

b. Joy:

Rejoice in **hope**... Romans 12:12

c. Boldness:

Since we have such a **hope**, we are very bold 2 Corinthians 3:12

d. Faith and love:

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven. Colossians 1:4-5

e. Comfort/encouragement:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no **hope**. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore **encourage** one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

f. Effective ministry:

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

g. Opportunity for witness:

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the **hope** that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect  
1 Peter 3:15

6. Christ is our hope

Christ Jesus our **hope** 1 Timothy 1:1