

Promises and Prayers of Hope

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Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for certain things to occur in our lives. A Biblical and Christian hope refers to the confident expectation that God will intercede on our behalf, that God will help and bless our lives through meeting our daily spiritual needs. Biblical hope is centered upon God's intercession for His children as we experience His spiritual resources, provision, and direction in life. The Christian hope speaks of possessing confidence and the expectation that God is there for us and will intervene on our behalf to bring about daily renewal in our hearts and provide stability in our life as we face difficult days and times. One of the greatest virtues we can possess in our hearts is hope. 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity." This means a life without hope is a hopeless life! We need hope, coupled with faith and love to keep our spiritual lives in tune.

The Bible promises and prayers of hope in this study center upon God and the revelation of His life to each one of His children. When we reflect upon God's unchanging character and how He reveals Himself to us as Christians through the promises of His Word, we will experience a new and fresh hope in our hearts. Praying through Scriptures (Bible verses) that center upon hope can result in restoring and maintaining our hope through the changes and challenges that we face in life. Hope does not just relate to the future but should be experienced in daily lives through God's supply of peace, joy, and mercies. This kind of hope enables us to maintain our spiritual equilibrium in life and allows us to "lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees" (Heb. 12:12).

Hope is manifested and experienced through God's help, loving mercies, His caring and constant spiritual provisions, and the expectation that He will bless our lives both today and in the future. Hope (the expectation of God's intercession and blessing in our lives) brings refreshment into our souls and reinvigorates our spiritual lives as we face trials and difficult times. This kind of hope is made real to our hearts as we read the promises of God's Word and apply them to our lives through experiencing God's continual spiritual provisions.

“Whispering hope
Oh, how welcome Thy voice,
Making my heart
In its sorrow rejoice!”

Ultimately, our hope is found in the wonderful promise that God will always be there for us, that He will make a way of escape for us, through His strengthening and sustaining grace that He supplies us with on a daily basis.

1 Corinthians 10:13

“There hath no temptation (*trial or tribulation*) taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape (*the escape is God’s strengthening grace*), that ye may be able to bear it” (*pass through it victoriously*).



This is always hope! This is because God always makes a way of escape for His children since He is the God of all hope (Rom. 15:13). May we find and experience this hope in God as we meditate and pray through these Bible promises.

Psalm 42:11 (The HOPE of Emotional Healing)

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted (*groaning and moaning – experiencing sorrow, heaviness, discouragement within our soul*) within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance (delivering me from a saddened demeanor and emotional turmoil), and my God.”

Hope is experienced through God’s emotional healing in our lives. As we look at this Bible promise about hope, we discover that the expectation and certainty of God’s intercession and spiritual blessing in our lives can bring us out of the emotional doldrums of life, out of depression, and can rescue us from discouragement. When we enter a difficult situation, whether it’s a situation at work, at school, or at home, with our health or wealth, we have the tendency to become distraught and even depressed. However, we can possess hope, the confidence and expectation that God will heal and help us to pass through our trial and be victorious. The hope that is centered upon God’s assistance and healing touch upon our hearts can restore a healthy countenance and attitude in our lives once again. Instead of moaning and groaning, we will find ourselves praising God!

Psalm 42:5 is like our previous verse with one extra promise:

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted (*murmuring and mourning – experiencing inward discouragement and depression*) in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance (*the help of God’s face shining upon me*).

Hope springs eternal! In other words, we can continue to possess hope in God’s strength, care, love, and help no matter what disappointments and struggles we face. The Lord will always be there for us when we are down, burdened, and experiencing grief because of hard times and difficult trials. The Psalmist gave this extra promise. In Psalm 42:11 our saddened and downcast countenance can change through experience gladness and joy as we experience hope in God. But in Psalm 42:5 we discover that our heart and life is changed through God’s own countenance shining upon us (“for the help of his countenance”).

In short, we need to experience the glory of God’s presence in our lives. When by faith we see the face of God smiling upon us (“The LORD make his face shine upon

thee” Num. 6:25; 67:1), we will experience a special manifestation of the presence of God upon our life. God’s face shining upon us occurs when we experience the wonder and amazement of His presence in our life. In short, we have an encounter with God as we experience His tender loving mercies and are overtaken with God’s presence and enjoying God’s presence. When we discover that it is glory just to walk with Him, we will experience the kind of hope this verse is talking about.

“Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.”

Interestingly, the Psalmist declares that when we experience hope in God’s presence and constant help, our own countenance brightens, and we become spiritually healthy again. A song of joy and melody of gladness (Eph. 5:19) returns to our heart. We learn to brighten the corner where we are! We can experience hope when we know that God is for us, that God will sooth us with His spiritual balm, that He will set us free, revive our souls again and guide us in the days ahead. This kind of hope brings spiritual refreshment and gladness to our hearts resulting in praise to God (“hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God”). We need daily encounters with God to brighten our day, so we might have hope restored in our hearts through His abiding presence and daily spiritual provisions. And when our hope is restored our countenance will demonstrate that we have been delivered from emotional defeat. We will experience God’s gladness and joy in our hearts and spread it to others along our pathway.

“Show a little bit of love and kindness,
Never go around with hatred's blindness,
Take a little time to reach for joy and wear a happy face.
Sing a little bit when the days are dreary,
Give a little help to a friend that's weary,
That's the way to make the world a happy place.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear God and Heavenly Father, I thank You for the hope I can have through emotional healing. I’m grateful that I can live in Your presence today and experience the daily hope or confident expectation that You will meet all of

my spiritual needs through Your personal companionship. I find hope in Your abiding presence knowing that You will assist me in my journey today and restore the sunshine of Your gladness and joy in my heart.

“When my soul is feeling cast down, burdened, and heavy, I will turn to Thee for the confident hope and reassurance that I can experience through Your help and strength, so I might live above my sorrows and discouragement. You will give me a song in my heart as You shine Your face upon me and as I experience the wonder of Your presence and spiritual refreshment in life.

“I will find all of my hope and confidence in You today. You have provided me with Your joy to overcome my downcast soul and saddened countenance. I turn to Thee for help and want to live by Your assistance and power, so I can find hope for my journey throughout this entire day. Right now, I claim to live in the light of Your presence, power, and spiritual provisions, so I might experience the hope that You want to shower upon my life this day. Thank You for the confident hope of Your daily provisions that provide me with spiritual renewal and restoration. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Psalm 39:7 (The HOPE of God’s Continual Presence)

“And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope *is* in thee.”

Hope is experienced through God’s presence and His healing touch upon our lives. Since our hope is in God and God alone (“my hope *is* in thee”), then there is nothing that should stop us from coming to Him and experiencing the hope that is centered upon God’s endless supply of spiritual provisions to meet all of our needs (2 Cor. 3:5; 9:8; 12:9). The fact that God is always there for His saints and cares about them (1 Pet. 5:7), bringing His loving and merciful touch upon our lives, means that we can always have a fresh supply of hope for our daily living. He given and giveth again (John 1:16). David is essentially asking, “Where could I go but to the Lord for renewed hope in my life?”

“Where could I go, oh where could I go?
Seeking a refuge for my soul
Needing a friend, to help me in the end
Where could I go, but to the Lord?”

A friend of mine once said to me, “After I tried seemingly everything else to get me through my trial, I eventually turned back to the Lord and found everything I needed. His spiritual provisions were real.” And then he said to me: “Where else could I go. Nothing else is real but God and His presence.”

This Bible promise reminds us that there is no other place to turn for hope but to God. We might think that programs, philosophies, and people can restore hope into our hearts. But the Psalmist is saying, “My hope *is* in thee” which means “Apart from You (God) I have no hope.” When expressing faith in God’s provision, David moved from a state of hopelessness to hope. He realized that God was the One who can make a difference in his life and bring hope back into his life through the fresh supply of God’s gracious supply.

Hope would be restored when God would heal David emotionally by delivering him from his sorrow (vs. 2) and from the inward burning fire of indignation, perplexity, bitterness, and overwhelming grief that was haunting him (vs. 3). David also experienced hope through God’s forgiveness (vs. 8), the removal of His chastening hand (vv. 8-11), and the restoration of his strength so he could go on in life (vs. 13). So essentially, David asks, “What am I waiting for?” My hope is in the Lord! This is because He is my healer, deliverer, restorer, blessing, and sustainer in life.

This Psalm reminds us that our main concern is not *how long we live* (vv. 4-5) but *how we live* every day of our lives. This is what matters. We must ask God to restore hope in our hearts and lives once again by experiencing the spiritual provisions that He supplies for us on a daily basis. This will bring meaning and purpose back into our lives.

“I stand on the Rock that no tempest can shake,
And life from Thy hands ev'ry moment I take,
Thy love will endure when all others forsake;
My hope is in Thee, My hope is in Thee.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Lord, I thank You for the hope of Your continual presence. Because You are always there for me, I will turn to You today for restored hope. I accept Your forgiveness, your emotional healing, and restored strength to provide me with the hope I need this day. In Jesus’ name, Amen,”

Psalm 38:15 (The HOPE of Answered Prayer)

“For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.”

Hope is experienced through God answering our prayers. Here is a Bible promise that once again confirms our hope is in Jehovah God. The Psalmist is saying that no matter how dark the present situation is we should never be without hope. Our hope stems from God answering our prayers for deliverance and help (“thou wilt hear”).

When we come to the limit of our human endurance and resources and find ourselves overcome with sorrow (Ps. 38:17), this is when God intervenes and provides us with the spiritual deliverance and renewal that we need. When we come to the end of our human resources, this is when God really begins to work!

God always remains close to His saints and rescues them in the time of trouble (Psalm 38:21-22). God is never late! He is always ready to answer our prayers and shower His abundant spiritual provisions of blessings upon our lives, His strength, peace, comfort, contentment, and enrichment, so we might experience hope and not be overcome with discouragement and defeat.

Beloved, God will always hear our cries for help and come to our rescue and aid (“thou wilt hear”). Do not lose heart (John 14:1). God is there for us. We can pray to Him and He will bring restored hope to our hearts during seemingly hopeless situations.

Psalm 71:4-5 echoes the same truth about hope and deliverance:

“Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.”

Prayer that brings God’s spiritual provision into our lives results in a tremendous hope being restored to our hearts. Keep praying and receiving hope from God!

“When your world is upside down and it crumbles and falls
And it’s so hard to make it through another day.
You’ve got mountains to move and they seem so tall
But you’re not giving up because His promise to save.

God will provide a way,
I know He'll provide a way,
Cause His word is true and He will do it for you,
God will provide a way.
God will make a way!

It may be at the very last moment
When your faith is all that is pulling you through.
It may be in the most unexpected way
But He'll provide and answer for you!

So turn your back to your problems and your face to the Lord
And let Him come and lift your burdens away.
As you pass through the night and your days turn to sight
You'll have been there before, so you'll know just what to say.

God will provide a way,
I know He'll provide a way.
Cause His word is true and He will do it for you.
God will provide, I know He'll provide a way.
God will provide a way."

Dearly beloved, God's ultimate way of provision for our lives is to restore hope to our hearts again which stems from the spiritual resources of His grace, peace, power, revival, and renewal. Yes, God will provide a way and that way will always be centered in hope and give us hope for today and the journey that lies ahead.

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Lord, I know you will hear my prayer as I reach out to You. Take my hand and help me to walk in the pathway of hope. Brighten my day and way with Your abiding presence and spiritual resources. 'At thy right hand are pleasures for evermore' (Ps. 16:11). I know that You will provide a way for me today. The promise of Your Word is true. You will listen to my prayer and provide me with an enduring hope that will permeate my heart and life. 'For in thee, O LORD, do I hope.' I will find my sufficiency in You and have my life refreshed and hope restored. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Psalm 31:24 (The HOPE of Courage and Strength)

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.”

Hope is experienced through receiving God’s courage and strength so we can go on in life and continue to find our way through life’s changes and challenges. There may be times when circumstances seem hopeless, when things go wrong, when all looks bleak and black. The Tempter (Devil) may come and whisper words of discouragement, doubt, and defeat within our inner soul. But when we place our hope in the Lord to strengthen us and give us courage to pass through trials, we will find a ray of sunshine in the darkness and a fresh start again. Any believer who is up against seemingly impossible odds can be strong and courageous through the Lord’s presence and experience the hope that He wants to communicate to them. God gives each one of us the courage and strength to go on in life and this results in hope being communicated to our soul on a daily and moment-by-moment basis.

“O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, I will be strong and courageous today because I know that You will give me the strength to pass through this day and go on with my life. My hope is in Thee!

“You are my daily hope as I depend upon Your divine assistance and strength. Help me to [Be strong and of a good courage]’ (Josh. 1:6). As You strengthen me inwardly, through Your personal presence, I know that I will find the courage I need to face life’s demands.

“I know that I will experience the inner hope and confident encouragement that I need from Thee, so I am not overcome by hopelessness and despair. Today, I claim the restored hope that I need through your constant supply of strengthening grace and courage, so I might pass through my trials victoriously. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Psalm 33:22 (The HOPE of God's Mercies)

"Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as (*since, because, when*) we hope in thee."

Hope is experienced through God's mercies being poured out within our hearts and lives. God's mercies refer to His tender touch and loving care and compassion that He showers upon our lives. This Bible promise means that we will experience hope in our hearts when we enjoy the outpouring of God's loving-kindness and mercy in our lives. In other words, our hope that we experience is rooted in the continual flow of God's mercies being poured out upon our lives. As we experience the Lord's tender-loving mercies, the touch of His compassion and kindness in a deeper and more intimate way in our lives, the more hope we will have to go on in life.

Psalm 33:18 gives a similar promise:

"Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him (in profound reverence and respect), upon them that hope in his mercy."

Hope and mercy are like two peas on the same pod. This is because hope is centered upon the continual flow of God's mercy being expressed and experienced in one's life. God's loving mercies and heart-felt compassion that we receive from Him provides us with the hope we need when passing through the deep water of trial, testing, old age, and the unexpected changes in life.

Psalm 89:1

"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."

Out of God's mercies flows hope! As we experience God's compassion being poured out upon our hearts and lives, we can find hope. As we practice the presence of God and experience His tender touch (His compassion and mercies) that He showers upon us, we will experience hope in our hearts. It will be an hourly and daily hope that we need to face our trials and tribulations.

We must remember that it's not enough to leave the place of devotions and worship simply "feeling good" since our feelings are temporary and sometimes, they can even be deceptive. But if we truly experience hope in God (His

strengthening presence, the expressions of His goodness, faithfulness, and mercies toward us), then we will be able to find stability and face the battles of life with greater confidence, joy, and spiritual victory. God's compassions do not fail us and His mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22-23). This means that we can experience God's hope and renewal every day through the lavish display of His loving compassion that He sends our way. I don't need a psychological patch; I need God's hope. I am loved by God today, I can experience His tender mercies that He wants to communicate to my human spirit, providing me with a continual flow of hope. Yes, you can bask in the sunshine of God's steadfast loving-kindness and mercies.

“Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “O God, thank You for Your tender-loving mercies, sympathy, and compassion that You shower upon my life every day which provides me with a daily hope. Help me to understand in a deeper way and have a greater appreciation for Your mercies which are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness to me!

“Yes, Lord, my hope I in Thee! I know that because of Your tender care and undying compassion that You express toward me on a daily basis, I will be able pass through my trials and difficulties. Great is Your faithfulness to me!

“May I through Your tender mercies abound in hope, possessing the confident reassurance that You are with me, loving me, caring for me, and that You will meet all of my needs in life (Phil. 4:19). Help me this day to ‘mount up with wings as

eagles' and to 'run, and not be weary,' and to 'walk, and not faint' (Isaiah 40:31). In Jesus' name, Amen."

Psalm 71:14 (The HOPE of Perseverance and Praise)

"But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more."

Hope is experienced in our lives when we persevere in expressing faith in God for our daily dose of hope. "But I will hope continually" indicates perseverance. Here is another Bible promise. It informs us that the more we experience hope through God's spiritual provision and blessing in our lives, the more we will praise and worship God. To keep our hope from flickering and failing, we must continually place our faith in God and His spiritual provisions that He wants to supply us with. To "hope continually" means to persevere in hope which comes from God. The result of persevering in hope is to proclaim our praise to God! Biblical hope results in Biblical praise.

So here is the wonderful promise. The more we express hope in God, the more praise will come forth from our lips and life. God's wonderful hope that stems from His abiding presence, peace, and promises keeps us praising God on a busy day and in the middle of the storms we face in life. The more hope, the more praise. This is God's way to keep sunshine in our souls. As we experience hope through the unchanging promises of His Word and His loving care and provision, we find ourselves continually praising God "with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8).

"There is sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright
Than glows in any earthly sky,
For Jesus is my light.

Oh, there's sunshine, blessed sunshine
When the peaceful happy moments roll.
When Jesus shows his smiling face,
There is sunshine in the soul."

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Father, today I know that I can only find hope when experiencing Your personal presence, companionship, and daily assistance in my life. I thank You that You are with me today. For this reason, I can possess the daily confidence and hope that You will meet all my needs and provide me with the

encouragement to go on in life. I will continually trust in Your spiritual provision for my life and bask in the hope of your sunshine.

“I will look to Thee this day, with great expectation, that You will provide me with the continual confidence and hope that I need to face life’s difficulties. You are all I need, dear Lord. I will give you unending praise for giving me unending hope to pass through my challenges and changes that I am facing in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Psalm 78:5-7 (The Hope in God’s Works)

“We will not hide *them (the blessings of God’s deliverance and supply)* from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know *them (the blessings of God’s provisions)*, even the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

We can also experience hope in our hearts when we reflect upon the past blessings that God has brought into our lives. In this verse our hope should be centered upon God because of the wonderful works He has done for us – His acts of deliverance and all His spiritual blessings. If we remember about His previous blessings of deliverance and help, this will create greater hope in our hearts for the present battles and trials that we face. We can look back and remember how God carried us through and blessed us in the past and know that He will do the same for us today. If we forget God’s great works which He has already done in our lives, we can lose hope when facing the present conflicts and trials.

This is why the parents were to pass down to their children the greatness of God’s spiritual supply and blessings which they had encountered. It’s because every generation of Christians can look back and say, “God is good and God is enough!” In remembering God’s provisions of the past, we find strength and hope for the present. God will do the same. He will provide for us in His own way and grant the peace we need as we pass through the deep waters of trial. He will continue to provide us with all the spiritual blessings we need to go on in life.

“In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way.
In peace that only Thou canst give
With Thee, O Master, let me live.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Father, thank you for providing me with so many past spiritual blessings that are related to Your deliverance, victory, and all the special things You have done for me and through me. Today I will refresh my hope in the wonderful promise and prospect that You will supply me with all the spiritual blessings I need for today. Lord, I don’t want to live in the past, but I will remember the past blessings You have brought into my life with the realization that today You still want to bless me with your strength, grace, and multitudes of spiritual blessings. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Psalm 119:81 (The Hope of God’s Word)

“My soul fainteth for thy salvation (*God’s deliverance, refuge, and defense in life*):
but I hope in thy word.”

Hope is experienced through reading and meditating on God’s promises. The Psalmist was fainting, but he began hoping when he read God’s Word. In the midst of fainting, we can turn to God’s Word and start finding hope again (“but I hope in thy word”). We are to call upon God for deliverance as we open the Bible and read His promises which will provide us with His much-needed refuge and spiritual deliverance.

Psalm 119:114 repeats the same promise:
“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”

This means that we should always recognize that God is our defense and will take care of us when we are in enemy territory or facing trials, when we are meditating upon God’s promises in the Scriptures. God’s Word produces hope in our hearts as we read it and apply it to our lives.

“The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.”

These two Bible promises remind us that the Scriptures provide us with the daily dose of hope that we need to face life and its challenges. Hope stems from the enduring and unchanging promises of God's Word. The more read it, the greater hope we will experience. The Psalmist reminds us that when our soul feels faint, we can turn to God's Word, and through the Bible we discover the promise of spiritual deliverance (vs. 81), which results in experiencing hope in our heart again. When we need God as a hiding place and shield (vs. 114), we can turn to His Word and discover the promises that God is our hiding place and shield (protection).

Our hope originates from reading God's promises and therefore discovering His mighty deliverance and the daily hiding place of serenity and safety that He grants to His children. In the Bible we read about the Lord's promises that He extends to us of His complete spiritual sufficiency and supply. God's promises His power and peace, His rescue and relief, His deliverance and direct intervention into our lives, and His renewal and refreshment. As we stand upon the promises of His Word, claiming and applying them to our lives, we will find the hope we need to deal with our troubles and trials.

Psalm 146:5-6 also states:

"Happy *is he* that *hath* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein *is*: which keepeth truth for ever."

We can possess great and lasting hope in our lives when we center our attention and hearts upon God's power and promises. This verse reveals that the way of happiness, help, and hope is to rely on the God of Jacob for His power and strength. Our hope is centered upon God's power ("which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein *is*") and God's promises ("keepeth truth for ever"). We can find hope in the omnipotence of God but also in the dependability of God. He is always true to His Word and promises. It is impossible for Him to lie or to go back on His word. There is no risk involved in trusting Him. He cannot fail. His promises are sure. We can depend on God and His Word and find hope!

"Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God."

Romans 15:4

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

As we read and study God’s Word which speaks of God’s presence, people, and promises, we discover how to experience patience and comfort in our own daily lives. From the pages of Scripture, we discover our need for these daily provisions of patience and comfort, which are further defined as our “hope.” To state it simply, when I experience God’s patience and comfort (consolation) in my daily living, which I receive through meditation in God’s Word, I am experiencing what it means to have hope. Patience and comfort give me a daily hope through the daily grind of life. Faith + patience = hope. We need to experience the present reality of hope in our hearts on a daily basis, a hope that stems from God’s spiritual supply and strength. Faith and patience create a daily hope in our hearts that allows us to pass through life without being overcome with trials and challenges that we face. And the root of all this hope (faith and patience) stems from reading and applying the Scriptures to our lives.

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Precious Lord, today I want to find hope from Your Word. As I read it, meditate on it, and claim the promises that it gives to me, I know that I can experience hope. I have hope or the confident assurance that I can make it through this day, since You have given men many precious and personal promises to claim as my own.

“This day, as I ponder the truth of Your Word, I want You to speak to me, and fill me with hope, knowing that Your promises and commands will help me to maintain a spiritual edge in life and give me the daily hope and confidence I need to face life’s demands.

“I commit myself to Your truth. I place myself under Your authority and I claim Your promises and guidance that You give to me, through the Word, so I might experience the reassurance that I can go on in life and live victoriously above life’s trials. Oh Lord, give me strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, as I read, obey, and claim the promises of Your Word. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Lamentations 3:26 (The HOPE of God's deliverance)

"It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation (deliverance) of the LORD."

Jeremiah had hope in the provisions of God's daily mercies which were showered upon him every day.

Lamentations 3:22-24 gives us a wonderful promise:

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

Jeremiah possessed a daily hope in God's abundant, tender-loving mercies poured upon his heart and life. He experienced God's abiding presence and the Balm of Gilead in healing and restoring him. Jeremiah was found hope through the deliverance he found in God's mercies. "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation (deliverance) of the LORD." Yes, every morning there was a fresh supply of God's faithful and merciful provision for his life. Jeremiah experienced the deep sympathy and love that God had for him on a daily basis and found deliverance for his soul as David did ("he restoreth my soul" – Ps. 23:3). The mercies of God! The loyal love that God has for each one of us today is experienced through His tender touch upon our lives. God faithfully and daily supplies us with the hope of His deliverance through His mercy – His acts of loving-kindness, pity, and sympathy that He expresses to us in our down times so that we are refreshed in our souls and ready to face another day.

"The mercies of God What a theme for my song
Oh I never could number them o'er.
They're more than the stars in the heavenly dome
Or the sands of the wave beaten shore.

They greet me at morn when I waken from sleep
And they gladden my heart at the noon.
They follow me on into shades of the night
when the day with its labor is done.

For mercies so great, What return can I make
For mercies so constant and sure.

I'll love him, I'll serve Him with all that I have
As long as my life shall endure!"

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Lord, thank you for the hope I can experience in my heart as I receive of your tender-loving mercies that You want to shower upon my life. I want to sense Your tender touch upon my heart and life today. I know that You care for me because you are there for me today, so I will cast all my cares upon You today as 1 Peter 5:7 tell me to do. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Romans 5:2 (The HOPE of the Glory of God)

"By whom also we have access (*into the throne room and very presence of God*) by faith (*in Christ*) into this grace wherein we stand (*a position of acceptance before God through grace, the finished work of Christ, and being in Christ – sharing the spiritual benefits of His saving work – Eph. 1:3*), and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (*the joyous hope of living with Christ and seeing His glory but also being like Christ throughout eternity*).

Hope is experienced in our Christian life through realizing that we will one day see Jesus Christ in His glory and also experience glory with Him! This is the Christian hope that stems from knowing we are saved and will one day experience a future glory when seeing and living with Christ, but also being like Christ.

A little boy once stood outside the gates of Buckingham palace in London. He wanted to talk to the king but was sternly repulsed by the guard at the gate. He rubbed a grimy hand to his cheek to wipe away a tear. Just then along came a well-dressed man who asked the little fellow to explain his trouble. When he heard the story, the man smiled and said, "Here, hold my hand, sonny. I'll get you in. Just you never mind those soldiers." The little boy took the held-out hand and, to his surprise, saw the soldiers leap to attention and present arms as his new-found friend approached. Past the guard he was led, along carpeted halls, through wide-flung doors and on through a glittering throng right up to the throne of the king. He had taken the hand of the Prince of Wales, the king's son! Through him he had gained access.

In one sense, each one of us as Christians have taken the nail-pierced hand of Jesus Christ into the throne room of Heaven! It is a glorious thing to have acceptance, to know that the war is over, and that God no longer looks upon us

with disfavor and wrath. It wonderful to know that you have access and possess a standing of acceptance before God's presence forever through the saving merits of Jesus Christ.

“Born of the Spirit with life from above into God's family divine,
Justified fully through Calvary's love,
Oh what a standing is mine!

Our positional standing in Christ and unconditional acceptance within the heavenly throne room (Rom. 5:1-2) means that we can possess the assurance and hope that we will actually enter Heaven someday and experience what the Bible calls the “hope of the glory of God.” First, this means we can joyfully look forward with great anticipation and hope to the time when we will gaze on the brilliant splendor of God Himself within the heavenly city (His radiating glory that is a reflection of His holiness and deity – John 17:5). Someday we will behold the Lord Jesus Christ in all of His glory!

Revelation 21:23

“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof.”

“The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my King of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Emmanuel's land.”

This is certainly our hope of glory! We will see the radiating glory of Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:3) and live with Him in the eternal heavenly city. This is a future hope that can permeate our hearts today as we grow older and move closer to this great eternal day! We have a thrilling eternity awaiting us!

Secondly, the “hope of the glory of God” also mean that each one of us as Christians can also possess the hope that we will one day share and experience

the glory that God gives and shares with His saints – the glory of a redemptive and perfect body, free from all sin, sorrow, and sickness. The word “glory” (possessing honor, splendor, magnificence, and radiance) is also portrayed in the Bible as something that God’s children will one day experience in their transformed bodies. It is a hope that is connected with the Rapture of God’s saints, when they are caught up and transformed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

Romans 8:18

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

What happens “in us” is most important of all! This is speaking about the moral glory we will share with Jesus, sinless perfection, the freedom from all sin in a newly redeemed body. It will undoubtedly be reflected in our outward appearance as we reflect God’s radiating glory. However, this glory is something that will also be experienced “in us” when we are morally transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ at the Rapture. In one sense, we will share in the glory of Christ (“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them” - John 17:24).

Colossians 3:4 promises:

“When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

Appearing with Christ in glory would mean to share His likeness and reflect His own glory (radiating moral perfection both inwardly and outwardly in a redemptive body). As a Christian, we also have the future expectation and hope that we will experience glory when we receive a new body at Christ’s return (Phil. 3:20). In the future (perhaps today!) we will essentially experience “glory” (this radiating splendor, honor, and dignity) that is related to our state of glorification. We cannot comprehend the full significance of this hope here on earth, nor will we get over the wonder of it all through all eternity. But we can “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” knowing that the grand finale of our Christian experience is to one day be transformed and be morally like Jesus Christ (Rom 8:29; 1 John 3:2–3).

1 John 3:2 brings both aspects of glory together:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him (*we will in some*

sense share His moral glory and perfection); for we shall see him as he is” (in all of His moral glory and perfections at the Rapture of the Church).

“We shall see His lovely face some bright golden morning,
When the clouds have parted and the shades have flown;
Sorrow will be turned to joy, heartaches gone forever;
No more night, only light, when we see His face.”

In the same moment we see Jesus Christ as His return, we will also be like Jesus. Changed in a moment! We will not only behold the glory of God in the coming day of Christ’s return but also experience glory (“we shall be like him”) in our resurrected, transformed, and glorified bodies.

The hope of the glory of God, seeing His own radiating glory and splendor at the return of Christ, but also experiencing this glory in our own lives throughout eternity (1 Pet. 5:4) should produce a daily comfort and confident expectancy in our hearts. The best is yet to come. God’s saints possess a tremendous future hope!

2 Corinthians 4:17

“For our light affliction (*when compared to our glorious future*), which is but for a moment (*when compared to our eternal destiny*), worketh for us a far more exceeding *and eternal weight of glory*” (*when compared to our present trials*).

Our future hope gives us a transitory perspective on the present trials and sufferings we are passing through (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17). We are reminded that they will not last forever. Better days are ahead! Oh, the wonder of it all! We will be eternally glorified, made into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. With our new and eternal bodies, we will never again suffer pain, disease, sorrow, sickness, and we will never again experience the propensity or inclination to sin. All will be made new! “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5). There may be groaning today but it will be glory throughout eternity! What a tremendous hope!

“There may be tears to shed as we travel home,
There may be weary hours, dreary days and lone,
But there’ll be no more heartaches ‘round the heavenly throne,
Only glory, wondrous glory by and by.
Only glory by and by, only glory by and by,

When we've crossed the river to our home on high;
Only glory by and by, only glory by and by,
Every heartache gone forever—only glory by and by.”

Yes indeed, we have the hope of the glory of God!

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear God and Heavenly Father, I long for the day when I will reflect and mirror the glory of Your Son Jesus Christ. I presently struggle in my body today but I know that in the future I will receive a sinless, painless, and timeless body that will reflect the moral glory of Your Son Jesus Christ. I look forward to this time with great expectancy and hope. Perhaps today Your Son will return and I will see Him, live with Him, and be overwhelmed at the splendor of His own radiating glory which is a reflection of His own purity and holiness.

“Maybe today I will behold Him for the very first time. How wonderful and glorious this will be! Oh, that will be glory for me, when by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory for me! I long to experience the glory of God in seeing my God and Savior Jesus Christ but also experiencing the glory He shares with me in that great coming day of resurrection, transformation, and glorification. ‘As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness’ (Ps. 17;15). In Jesus’s name, Amen.”

Romans 5:3-5 (The HOPE of God’s Satisfaction)

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed (*never disappoints but always satisfies*); because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (*the Holy Spirit reassures us that God loves us and therefore will always provide us with hope*).

Hope is experienced through the satisfaction that God brings into our hearts because of the Spirit’s work of reminding us how much God loves us. Tribulations or trials should produce three character building qualities or good fruits: patience (*perseverance or endurance*), experience (*tested, tried, approved character, spiritual building or development – Job 23:10*) which results in hope (*the hope or confidence that God will see us through every trial*). We can possess this hope when we have a right view of trials in relation to God’s providential purposes and

when relying on His promises. In other words, as we experience God's patience and spiritual development (building up Christian character) this will result in possessing hope in our hearts. This is a hope that is built and centered upon the belief that God has a purpose in everything (2 Cor. 4:15), that God will see us through (Phil. 1:6), and that we are becoming more like Jesus Christ through everything that we are facing in life (2 Cor. 3:18). This kind of spiritual outlook and attitude toward trials spawns hope in our hearts.

"I've had many tears and sorrows,
I've had questions for tomorrow,
there's been times I didn't know right from wrong.
But in every situation,
God gave me blessed consolation,
that my trials come to only make me strong.
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus,
I've learned to trust in God."

The word "ashamed" ("hope maketh not ashamed") has the idea of never experiencing shame, remorse, or disappointment since God always loves us and lavishly displays us with the hope we need to go on in life. We will never be ashamed or disappointed in God. Instead, we will always be satisfied with God for the provision of hope He brings into our hearts through His inner working of grace in our hearts – His patience, sanctification, and growth.

The "hope" of Romans 5:5 is presented as a confident expectation that as God works out "patience" (perseverance) and "experience" (spiritual growth and maturity) in our hearts that we will experience hope. These virtues build hope in our hearts as we face the trials of life. As God supplies us with these Christian virtues, they will produce an inner satisfaction in our hearts and lives.

In addition, the "hope" is not only the assurance that God will see us through the tribulations associated with life (Rom. 5:3) but this hope also consists of the joyful, confident expectation of the blessings of God that await us in the next life for we are to "rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2) – seeing God's glory and sharing in God's glory through our redeemed bodies!. The hope which comes from

God through His present provisions and future promises means that we will never be disappointed (“ashamed”) with Him.

So the “hope” of Romans 5:5 is presented as a confident expectation of God fulfilling all His promises that relate to our lives (2 Cor. 1:20) which provides us with a continual flow of hope and encouragement for each day and every trial that we face. This hope will never disappoint us but satisfy us every day of our lives.

There are no disappointments in Jesus (Rom. 9:33; 10:11).

“There’s no disappointment in Jesus,
On Him I can ever rely;
With confidence wait His appointment,
Tho’ sometimes my faith He may try.”

Build your hope on God’s spiritually supply and promises and your cup will never run dry. You will always experience God’s daily hope in your heart because you are satisfied with His spiritual provision for your life and rest in both His present and future promises. You will never be disappointed! God will not let you down! This is because when God works in our hearts His provision of patience and spiritual growth, and when we cling to His future promises, we will find true satisfaction in life. The Lord’s provisions and promises which are the basis of our hope will never bring shame or disappointment to us. They will only produce satisfaction in our hearts and lives. Again, this is because God always brings to pass His promises in our lives (2 Cor. 1:20) and provides us with a continual flow of hope and encouragement for each day and every trial that we face.

Proverbs 13:12 reminds us that:

“Hope deferred (*prolonged or delayed*) maketh the heart sick: but *when* the desire cometh (*when it is fulfilled*), it is a tree of life” (*it is like a tree of life that brings satisfaction and blessing to our souls*).

This is the hope we are to have for today! It’s to be a living and dynamic hope as we face life’s trials and demands. Romans 5:5 seems to be teaching we can be absolutely certain that as we pass through trials God will fulfill all His promises, both today and in the future, which results in producing hope in our hearts. And this hope is created in our hearts “because the love of God is shed abroad in our

hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5). How does the work of the Holy Spirit factor into our hope? The point seems to be this. The Holy Spirit constantly impresses upon our hearts how much God loves us as His children, and in so doing, we experience the assurance and newfound confidence that all God’s promises to us will come to pass in our lives.

Every promise that pertains to today and the future, we can be sure will come to pass. Why? It’s because God loves us! The Holy Spirit, given to us the moment we believe, floods our hearts with continued expressions of God’s constant and eternal love for us (Rom. 8:38-39), and by these we have a steadfast and sure hope that all of God’s promises will come to pass in our hearts and lives.

So, our hope is centered upon the assurance that all of God’s promises are fulfilled in our lives today and will be fulfilled in the future. The stamp of God’s love for us gives us this assurance and hope! “Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.” But we can also sing in light of Romans 5:5, “Yes Jesus loves me, the Holy Spirit lets me know.” Here is the point. God loves us unconditionally and will never disappoint His children. We will always have a fresh supply of hope to take us through life. Hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow! How can we be sure? Because God eternally loves His children!

“How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for the deep and tender love that You express toward me on a daily basis. I am so grateful for Your unconditional love. You truly do love me with an everlasting love that cannot be broken. Nothing or no one shall ever separate me from the love that You have for me in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:28-39). Because of Your love that You extend to me, I also know that You desire to bring full satisfaction into my life through Your personal presence and the promises found in the Bible. Because You love me, I

know that you will give me the daily spiritual provisions I need to spawn hope in my heart for each new day. I also know that the glorious future that awaits me will also increase hope in my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Romans 8:24-25 (The HOPE of Future Deliverance)

“For we are saved by hope (those who respond in faith to Christ possess the hope of receiving a new body someday which is the final phase of our salvation): but hope that is seen is not hope (we don't see our bodies redeemed and transformed yet, if we would, we wouldn't have anything to hope for in the future): for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? (If we have it already we really don't need any more hope) But if we hope for that we see not (If we possess hope in receiving a future, redeemed body which we presently do not see nor experience today), then do we with patience wait for it” (with great confidence, hope, and expectancy).

Hope is experienced through contemplating our future deliverance! Paul has in mind our future redemption of the body. When we come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we not only have the immediate and eternal hope of salvation from the penalty of sin (Rom. 8:1), but we also look forward to the future promise of our deliverance of our bodies from the very presence of sin and all the imperfections that result because of our sinful bodies.

Hope is an ingredient which is inseparable from salvation. It naturally accompanies salvation as it relates to our deliverance from sin's penalty (our past deliverance) but some from sin's very presence in a new body (our future salvation). Hope can never be divorced from salvation because salvation is the ground of our hope. In this section of Scripture. Paul is looking ahead to the hope of our future, bodily, redemption.

God has promised that a believer's body will finally be delivered from sin and its effects in the future. We will experience a final deliverance from sin, suffering, disease, and death. We can bank on this! The Bible says, “we with patience wait for it” (the redemption of our body – our future deliverance from disease and death). This is hope! Our hope of receiving a new and glorified body someday and being delivered from the presence of sin and all its terrible results is based on the promise of God. This means we can be certain we will receive this new body someday as if we had already received it ahead of time!

In the coming day, we are going to receive a body that will be totally and forever delivered from every sin and all imperfections, every disease, every hardship, and death itself. We are saved with this hope and expectancy in our hearts! We can eagerly wait for it with patience during the suffering of this life, knowing what lies ahead. As I mentioned previously, there is groaning today but glory tomorrow!

Sandy and Headlam comment:

“The point of these two verses is that the attitude of hope, so distinctive of the Christian, implies that there is more in store for him than anything that is his already.”

We have a tremendous future hope. As we contemplate this glorious future and destiny, it should provide us with hope today. We can know that even though our body is breaking down during our present life that we have a glorious prospect of a redeemed body that is sinless, painless, and deathless. The half has not been told!

“Yea, justified, oh, blessed thought,
And sanctified, salvation wrought.
Thy blood hath pardon bought for me,
And glorified I, too, shall be.”

PRAYER of HOPE: “I thank You Lord for the tremendous future hope that awaits me. I long for the day when I will be fully and finally delivered from sin, all suffering, every disease, and death itself. This future hope provides me with hope today as I look ahead and realize that the best is yet to come. So Lord, fill my heart with this blessed hope as I focus on my future blessings. Make it a present reality in my heart and life right now. May my future perspective provide me with the hope I can have today as I face the changes and challenges of life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Romans 12:12 (The HOPE of Rejoicing)

“Rejoicing (*being joyful*) in hope (*because of our hope in Christ which pertains to the Rapture and possessing a redeemed body – Rom. 5:2; 8:23-25*); patient in tribulation (*perseverance during afflictions as we experience this future hope in our hearts*); continuing instant in prayer” (*boiling over and being fervent in the ministry of prayer to maintain a lively spirit of hopefulness*).

Hope is also experienced in our lives as we find ourselves looking ahead to the glory that awaits us! There is a definite joy that is associated with hope as we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” – Rom. 5:2) which pertains to experiencing our glorified body – a sinless, painless, deathless body. Anticipation of all of our future glories brings hope to our hearts today which results in rejoicing and great joy!

What I want you to see in Romans 12:12 is that we must never lose sight of our future hope of the Rapture and our redeemed bodies. This future hope will help us persevere or possess patience in the trials we face in life today (Rom. 5:3–4). Furthermore, prayer is our great resource whenever we feel stress and strain that helps us to maintain this hope in our hearts (Phil. 4:6–7).

We can note the same progression from hope to perseverance to prayer in Romans 8:24–27. Maintaining hope is related to perseverance (patience) and prayer. We need to remember this in our Christian life. We cannot have hope without patience and prayerfulness. But it’s equally true that we cannot have joy without hope prevailing in our hearts (“rejoicing in hope”- Rom. 12:12).

The point is this, we experience hope as we rejoice in God’s future promises that await us. It’s not only the hope that we have of salvation from hell through Christ but also the hope we possess in the coming of our Savior at the Rapture, the redemption of our bodies, and our eternal glory! We must never lose sight of what God has promised to us in the future because this hope will bring rejoicing to our hearts today as we contemplate the glorious destiny that awaits us.

1 Peter 1:8 also speaks of this same rejoicing while anticipating the future: “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing (*that we will see Jesus someday*), ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (*you experience joy and glory today in your relationship with Christ as you anticipate the future hope of seeing and living with Him*).

Peter tells us that we were born again unto a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3) and part of this hope is seeing Jesus and being like Him someday in a perfect body without sin which is identified as our “salvation ready to be revealed” (1 Pet. 1:9). This is essentially the future glory (magnificence and splendor that focuses on our enjoyment with Christ) that awaits us. But in the meantime, while we anticipate

this future glory, we can experience “joy unspeakable (profoundly deep) and full of glory” (the magnificence, splendor, and enjoyment of God’s presence and the blessings of life with him) in our daily relationship with Christ. We can get a taste of that glory right now – a taste of Heaven on earth! We have part of this glory now because of Christ’s presence in our lives but we will experience even greater glory when we see Christ and are like Him. Rejoicing today in our relationship with Christ while at the same time anticipating the future hope of living with Christ someday and being morally like Him is the ground of rejoicing!

The point is this. Our future hope includes rejoicing or joy (“Rejoicing in hope” – Rom. 12:12) as we contemplate the glory that awaits us, but in the meantime we also find hope and rejoicing in our relationship with Jesus Christ right now, experiencing glory today, as we anticipate the coming glory when we actually see Christ.

“I have found that hope so bright and clear,
Living in the realm of grace.
The Savior’s presence is so near;
I can see His smiling face.
“It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Full of glory, full of glory.
It is joy unspeakable and full of glory;
the half has never yet been told!”

PRAYER of HOPE: “Lord, I am so grateful that I can possess hope in my heart today as I look ahead to the Rapture and the redeemed body that I will receive on this most glorious day! I have overflowing joy in my heart as I anticipate what lies ahead. It is glory just to walk with You and it will be even greater glory when I get to see You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Romans 15:13 (The HOPE of God’s Joy, Peace, and Faith)

"Now the God of hope (*the hope that God inspires in our hearts through enabling us to face our trials today and the hope God gives to us which is centered upon our final glorification*) fill you with all joy and peace in believing (*possessing faith*), that ye may abound in hope (*superabound in hope*), through the power of the Holy Ghost."

This is somewhat similar to the last point but with several added blessings that come into our Christian lives when experiencing hope. God's joy, peace, and faith ("believing") are the byproduct or result of hope which has been generated in our hearts and floods into our soul through the power of the Holy Spirit. Hope, joy, peace, and faith are interrelated. If you possess hope, then you will also be experiencing God's joy, peace, and faith (Rom. 14:17). In other words, when hope is abounding in our hearts we will possess this dynamic trio (joy, peace, faith) in our lives. Hope generates joy, peace and faith and is the inward result that hope is at work in our hearts.

Christians can be joyful because of what God has already done for them and is doing for them and what He will do for them in the future. We can also be peaceful as we realize what He is doing for us now and what He will do for us in the future. We can keep on believing (express faith) that God will carry us through today and bless us abundantly in the future. So, hope spawns joy, peace, and faith while at the same time these Christian virtues become the inward reality and expression that hope is occurring in our hearts. If you don't possess joy, peace, and faith then your hope has dried up! But when we realize the hope we can have today through God's spiritual provisions and the blessings that await us in the future, we can be sure that our hope will be expressed with a continual feast of joy, peace, and faith.

As we look again to the New Testament Scriptures, we come to the realization that all of our hope in God and His present and future promises is funneled through the new dynamic working of the Holy Spirit which is occurring in our hearts and lives ("through the power of the Holy Ghost"). The fruit of joy, peace, and faith (Gal. 5:22) is generated by the Spirit's work within our hearts and is the direct result of hope being experienced in our daily lives. When we possess hope to get through our present conflicts by God's enabling grace and mercy, when we possess the hope of a future redeemed body to replace our current dilapidated model and the hope of Heaven is a living reality in our hearts, we can be sure that out of this hopeful outlook will flow joy, peace, and faith. In other words, you cannot separate hope from the virtues of joy, peace, and faith. This is because hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow results in experiencing the virtues of joy, peace, and faith.

Hope is inspired within our hearts through the Holy Spirit's inner work. When the Spirit is working in our hearts, we will experience the peace, joy, and faith ("believing") that stems from God's faithfulness to His promises. Again, this verse links God's hope to the joy, peace, and faith ("believing") which can be manifested in our hearts every day. In other words, the *evidence* that we are filled with hope today is that we are experiencing God's inner joy and peace and that we keep on believing that God is always faithful to His promises. This is how we experience and demonstrate hope in our hearts daily. Christians should never be hopeless since God provides hope in our hearts everyday through His spiritual provisions and promises. He also provides us with the hope in the next life and throughout eternity in view of dwelling with Christ in Heaven (John 14:1-2) and possessing a new glorified body (1 John 3:2).

The concept that we might "abound in hope" (Rom. 15:3) means to superabound, excel, overflow in hope. In other words, we can live in such a way that we are spiritually rich from the hope that is flourishing and overflowing in our souls. The Spirit points us to the hope we have for today and the future and then creates in our hearts the joy, peace, and faith that flow out of this inner hope which has inspired and permeated our hearts. Again, there is nothing *hopeless* about the Christian life when we tap into the blessings of God for today and the future. We have a blessed joy, peace, and faith that stems from hope filling our hearts. And there is nothing *helpless* about the Christian life because we have this hope "through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Hope is being experienced in our lives when we are living with joy.

"There is joy in serving Jesus,
Joy that triumphs over pain,
Fills my soul with heaven's music,
Till I join the glad refrain.

There is joy, joy,
Joy in serving Jesus,
Joy that throbs within my heart;
Ev'ry moment, ev'ry hour,
As I draw upon His power,
There is joy, joy,
Joy that never shall depart."

Hope is experienced in our lives when we have peace.

“Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm
In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm

Peace, peace, wonderful peace
Coming down from the Father above
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
In fathomless billows of love.”

Hope is also being experienced in our lives when we are living by faith.

“Faith is the victory!
Faith is the victory!
Oh, glorious victory,
That overcomes the world.”

PRAYER of HOPE: “I thank You Lord that you are the God of hope, my personal God who provides me with confidence to live victoriously and above all my difficulties and depressive thoughts that seek to invade my heart and life. Your peace and joy provide me with the hope and confidence I need to face another day. I cast my thoughts of depression aside and place myself totally in Your hands, so I can experience Your hope today, which is the confident expectation that You will give me victory over doubt, depression, and fear, through Your inner joy and peace. Help me to possess a strong faith in your providential ways over my life.

“Dear Lord, You are my only hope for this day. You are my tower of strength. I claim today that inner joy and peace that you want to give to me, so I can live with the hope and confidence, or the reassurance and expectation, that You will provide for my needs and get me through another day. Thank You God that I can come to you today and be filled with your unending joy and peace, knowing that through faith in Your constant provision, I can experience the daily hope I need to go on in life, since You have provided all of my inner needs.

“Today I commit myself to this hope and by faith claim your peace that passeth all understanding” (Phil. 4:7) and “the joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8)

that only You can give through the power of the Holy Spirit. I claim this promise today so I can “abound in hope” as I experience Your daily inner peace and joy that You provide in my heart. Oh God of all hope, fill me with Your hope today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

1 Corinthians 13:7 (The HOPE of Love)

“Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

Hope is also experienced in our relationships with others when seeing God at work in their lives. In this chapter, we see that love is expressed to others when we keep believing in them, possessing the hope that God will change them. There is always hope for others. There is the hope of change and transformation through God’s work in the hearts. This is exciting to realize. Here we find that hope is rooted in the Christian virtue of love and love does not give up on people for it “Beareth all things (patiently endures a lot), believeth all things (continues to have faith in others), hopeth all things (desires that things change and works out for the best for others), endureth all things (both the good and the bad which might include ill-treatment).

Love is filled with a hopeful attitude toward others. It knows that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37). I once heard somebody talk about what they termed as “tough love” This is the way true love is to be expressed toward others. Love does not give up on others when all hope seems to be gone. Where there is love there is still hope! You cannot separate true love from hope.

In 1 Corinthians 13:7, hope should be part of our Christian life and heart, as it pertains to seeing the lives of others changed or people transformed for God’s glory and believing in a spiritual outcome. This means that I can remain hopeful about my marriage partner and relationship. I won’t throw in the towel! I can know that God wants to do some wonderful things within our personal lives and marriage. We can see good things in each other and hope for even better things. We must believe that God can and will change someone else despite their present failures. A hope centered upon love is never ready to give up on others. Again, we must remember that nothing is too hard for God.

Jeremiah 32:17

“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, *and* there is nothing too hard for thee.”

God wants us to continue to be hopeful and have faith in His power and transformation which can change the lives of people and make them into what God wants them to be (Eph. 2:10). Love is not gullible, but it does remain hopeful in all things. In spite of trials, difficulties, discouragement, and the feeling of failure, love keeps on going because of the strength it has from hopefulness.

1 Corinthians 13:13 also joins together love and hope:

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.”

In this verse the virtues of faith, hope and love are triplets of spiritual living or the main moral principles and characteristics of Christianity. If you get this, then you will understand how to really live the Christian life. Here these virtues are bunched together because they enable us to maintain a spiritual attitude and outlook on life and with others. They keep us from getting bitter, filled with resentment, and giving up on others. Without faith, hope, and love we are just existing. But when we are living by faith, hope, and love we suddenly come alive to what is most important in life. We are leading a very dull, drab, and dreary existence without these three Christian virtues occurring within our heart.

So, we see in this series of exhortations (keep on believing, hoping, and loving) that a Christians personal attitude, which reflects these virtues, results in them being more attractive to others from a spiritual perspective. Hope appears in certain lists of Scripture as being an important spiritual ingredient to keep our own life spiritually fit and to maintain proper relations with others.

On May 2, 1962, a dramatic advertisement appeared in the San Francisco Examiner: "I don't want my husband to die in the gas chamber for a crime he did not commit. I will therefore offer my services for 10 years as a cook, maid, or housekeeper to any leading attorney who will defend him and bring about his vindication."

One of San Francisco's greatest attorneys, Vincent Hallinan, read or heard about the ad and contacted Gladys Kidd, who had placed it. Her husband, Robert Lee Kidd, was about to be tried for the slaying of an elderly antique dealer. Kidd's fingerprints had been found on a bloodstained ornate sword in the victim's shop. During the trial, Hallinan proved that the antique dealer had not been killed by the sword, and that Kidd's fingerprints and blood on the sword got there because Kidd had once toyed with it while playfully dueling with a friend when they were both out shopping. The jury, after 11 hours, found Kidd to be not guilty. Attorney Hallinan refused Gladys Kidd's offer of 10 years' servitude. The genuine love Gladys had for her husband led to his deliverance. This reminds us that we need to keep loving and remain hopeful that God can and will do great things for the lives of others. Emily Dickinson wrote:

“Hope is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words –
And never stops – at all.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear God, I recommit my own love to my family and friends knowing that You can save them, change them, and make them into the likeness of Your Son Jesus Christ. I will not lose hope in what You can do in the hearts of my loved ones as I commit them into Your hand and place them under Your saving and transforming power. I do possess the hope that You will keep working in their hearts and remold them so that their lives can bring honor and glory to You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

2 Corinthians 3:12 (The HOPE of the New Covenant and the Gospel)

“Seeing then that we have such hope (*through the New Covenant Gospel message – the hope of salvation and acceptance before God*), we use great plainness (*boldness*) of speech.”

Hope is also experienced through the Gospel which points to Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. In this section of Scripture, the hope of the New Covenant which is rooted in the Gospel is being contrasted with the Old Covenant and its fading glory (2 Cor. 2:9-11). There is no fading glory when it comes to the good news of Christ’s death for sinners. This is because the Gospel of the New Covenant and the shedding of Christ’s blood (Luke 22:20; Heb. 12:24; 13:20)

brings an eternal hope into our heart that we are eternally accepted by God through the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ (“the ministration of righteousness” - 2 Cor. 13:9).

“This is all my hope and peace:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

We are living on New Covenant ground which provides us with a secure hope of our righteous standing and acceptance before God. With the shedding of Christ’s blood upon the cross behind us, we can have the confident hope that our sins are forgiven forever, that we possess a righteous standing before God, and that God eternally accepts us within His presence. This is why we can sing:

“My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Heavenly Father, I am so grateful today that Your sacrifice is sufficient to provide me with salvation from hell. Through the New Covenant ministry and shedding of Christ’s precious blood on my behalf, I am counting my blessings of total forgiveness, justification, and salvation through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Because Christ has died for me I can know that my acceptance before Your throne is secure. Praise God it will never change! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Galatians 5:5 (The HOPE of Righteousness)

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

Hope is also experienced in our hearts when we anticipate with certainty our future hope which is related to becoming totally sinless and perfectly righteous in our inner being and life. This again is referring to the time when we will receive a

new body and be perfectly righteous and sinless. The Christian waits for this hope of righteousness. We can hope for the time when the Lord will come, when we will receive a glorified body, and when we will sin no more.

Notice that it does not say that the Christian hopes for imputed righteousness; he already has a right standing before God through the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21). Someday the inward and legal righteousness which began at justification will be transformed into an outward righteousness at the time of our glorification. What a day this will be! There is coming a time that what we are because of our righteous position in Christ will be perfect joined with our outward living when we receive a new body and are glorified – never again possessing any sin and impurity in our hearts.

The Bible says we are to wait in hope (confident expectancy) for the moment when he will be completely righteous in ourselves (“the glory that shall be revealed in us” - Rom. 8:18). Of course, we do not hope to achieve this perfect righteousness within us by anything that he can do today (Eph. 2:8-9), but rather we know that we will receive this future hope of righteousness through the Spirit and by faith. In other words, the Holy Spirit inspires faith in our hearts and therefore we can look ahead to this future hope and know for certain that God will bring it to pass. His Word is true!

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchased of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you that I can look forward to the hope that lies before me, when I am perfectly righteous and just like You Son Jesus Christ. I long for this day with great anticipation knowing that it will come to pass. I pray that this future hope of deliverance from all my sin and unrighteousness ways will provide me with the hope I need today even when I fail you. I do look forward to the coming day of when I am perfectly righteous and will no longer struggle with sin and failure. I long for this day with great anticipation. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Ephesians 1:18 (The HOPE of God's Inheritance)

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened (because of the spiritual insight you possess from God); that ye may know what is the hope of his calling (the future hope and expectation that God possesses through the calling of His saints to their destiny of salvation), and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance (God's inheritance) in the saints.”

This is a tremendous verse that actually speaks about God's hope and something we will share with Him someday. Hope is also experienced in our hearts and lives when we understand that God is looking forward to the day when we are with Christ and ruling eternally with Him. The “hope of his calling” actually points to the destiny and hope that God had in His mind when He initially called us to salvation. It refers to our future destiny and ultimate glorification when we will live and reign with Christ forever as His glorified sons. This is something that God looks forward to experiencing with His saints and is “the hope of his calling” which is again the hope of seeing His saints (whom He has called) eternally glorified, living, and reigning with Him forever.

To state is clearly, when God called us to salvation He was filled with the thrilling hope and expectation of experiencing what He (God) considers to be His own inheritance (“his own inheritance in the saints” – Ps. 33:12). God looks forward to the time when His own people shall live with Christ, be like Him, and reign with Him forever. Throughout eternity, God will view His saints as His own precious possession and inheritance, which have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, who will be manifested and portrayed before the universe, as the sons of God (Rom. 8:19), which eternally reign with Him (Rev. 22:5).

Not only does God possess this assuring hope and thrilling expectation to live and reign with His glorified saints, but as we have already seen, we also can hope for this eternal reign with Christ, not in the sense that there is any doubt about it, but rather because it is that aspect of our salvation that is still future and which we can look forward to with great assurance and expectancy.

“Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run.
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

And we, as His spotless Bride, shall reign with Jesus as His great prized possession and glorious inheritance! This is grace beyond measure! We have a glorious destiny that awaits us and a tremendous hope. Everything in this life pales in comparison to the hope that lies ahead for God's children.

PRAYER OF HOPE: "God, I do look forward to the day with great anticipation and hope when we will live and reign with You. I cannot fully comprehend eternity and the future destiny You have planned for me, but I know that I will one day enter into the eternal state and enjoy Your presence forever. I will be forever glorified with a new body, living with You, and reigning with You forever. Thank you for this wonderful hope! In Jesus' name, Amen."

Ephesians 4:4 (The HOPE of our Calling)

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

Hope is also experienced in our hearts as Christians when we continually contemplate the glorious future that we have with God. This hope relates specifically to the future hope that we possess as God's saints, not God's hope as previously seen in Ephesians 1:18. When God initially called us to salvation (Eph. 4:1), we also were given the future hope of one day spending eternity with Jesus Christ. All believers have a common hope that is centered in their future destiny and inheritance that they will one day enter in to and experience with the Lord (1 Pet. 1:3; 3:15). This hope refers to being like Jesus, living with Jesus, and reigning with Him throughout eternity.

Ephesians 2:7 speaks of the hope of our calling in this manner:

"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches (surpassing wealth) of his grace (kindness and benevolence) in his kindness (generosity and graciousness) toward us through Christ Jesus."

Throughout eternity, in the future eternal state, as the ages of eternity roll, we will experience the wonders of God's grace! The word "show" means to display and give evidence of His grace at work in our lives. First, this may suggest that God will display in our own hearts and lives the wonder and amazement of His grace that He has shown to us on Calvary. We will never get over the wonder of it all!

Second, the showing or displaying may also have something to do with how our personal lives will be a visible display of God's grace throughout eternity, as His sons, which will ultimately give Him glory (Eph. 1:6). In other words, there will be manifold riches of God's grace that will be visibly experienced and evidenced in our lives which cannot be exhausted throughout the eternal ages of time.

This means that God's kindness and favor will be forever experienced in our personal lives. We will be visible displays of God's grace and become an eternal demonstration of the wealth of His grace that He has showered upon our lives. Think about experiencing God's grace throughout eternity as the glorified sons of God. Being like Christ, being with Christ, and reigning with Christ eternally will allow us to be visibly displayed as God's sons who have been saved, transformed, and blessed by His grace.

"And while the ages roll
I'll keep on praising Him.
And my voice will never tire or grow old,
And my song shall ever be,
Praise the Lamb who died for me.
And I'll sing it while ages shall roll."

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Lord, I am once again in awe as I consider the glorious destiny that awaits me as Your child. I know that I will enter my future inheritance someday and enjoy a perfect place, a perfect body, and a perfect fellowship with You. Throughout eternity I will be displayed as a trophy of Your grace. I have so much to look forward to that my heart is filled with hope today. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Colossians 1:5 (The HOPE of Heaven)

"For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven (*the security of our heavenly hope*), whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (*the origin of our heavenly hope*).

In this verse we discover that hope is also experienced in our present lives as we contemplate our heavenly home and the glorious heavenly blessings that lie ahead for those of us who are saved and in Christ. In this case, our hope looks out into the future with the great anticipation of experiencing the wonders of Heaven.

It refers to our future heavenly inheritance that we will someday enter into as God's saints.

The future prospect of Heaven provides us with hope. We will be with Christ (John 14:3), experience the fellowship of the beloved saints (Heb. 12:22-23), and be awestruck at the wonder and beauty of the heavenly city with its translucent streets of gold, gems, pearly gates, and the beautiful paradise of God (Rev. 2:7; 3:12; 21-22).

The word "laid up" in Colossians 1:5 was used to describe something that a person waited for that was already secured. When we come to hear the truth ("ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel") and respond to it by expressing faith in Christ (Rom. 10:17), we immediately possess a future heavenly inheritance. This heavenly hope is rooted in the saving message of the Gospel (Christ's death, burial, and resurrection). Yes, this heavenly inheritance is already "laid up" for us. This means it will be there when we get there!

"When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair,
When the saved diverse shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!
When the roll is called up yonder
When the roll is called up yonder
When the roll is called up yonder
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there!"

In 1 Peter 1:3-4, Peter refers to this future inheritance of salvation, which would include our heavenly destiny: "Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope (*the daily hope*) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (*the foundation of our hope*), To an inheritance (*the explanation of our hope*) incorruptible (*deathless*), and undefiled (*spotless*), and that fadeth not away (*timeless*), reserved in heaven for you" (*safeness*).

We will look at this verse in more detail later. The glories of this future inheritance of salvation are almost indescribable. Peter was also looking ahead to everything that awaits us in the future, including our heavenly inheritance. He concludes that

this should be seen as a “lively” or living hope in our hearts and lives. This means that the hope of our future destination and all the blessings that await us should be a daily hope that is experienced in our hearts as it produces comfort, inspiration, anticipation and excitement for the future. The best is yet to come! We are going to the great heavenly city!

“I am going to a city,
Where the streets with gold are laid,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
And the roses never fade.”

Jesus promised in John 14:3:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”

Jesus and Peter both promised that our inheritance will be there when we get to Heaven! We can be sure about this because it is reserved for us!

“While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Father, the glorious prospect of entering Heaven someday with all of its glories and wonders gives me hope. I know that best is yet to come. I pray that I would possess the living hope that Peter talks about in my own heart. I pray that on a daily basis I would live in light of this eternal hope. I want to experience this calming hope in my heart today as I face trials and troubles. It reminds me that my tribulations in this life are short in comparison to the blessings of eternity. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Colossians 1:23 (the HOPE of the Gospel)

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled (the proof of our salvation), and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel (the foundation of our salvation), which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister”

The foundation of our hope that we can possess in our hearts today comes through the Gospel message of Christ’s death and resurrection. It’s the only message that can give us the confidence that we are saved and secure. The word “gospel” means good news. It is the good news of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection from the grave that grants us forgiveness of sins, justification before God, and eternal life. This is the hope of the Gospel! It is a tremendous hope that cannot be taken away from us if we continue to possess our full confidence in Jesus Christ alone to be our Savior. Whenever we doubt the sufficiency of Christ in saving us fully and finally, we lose the hope of the Gospel.

2 John 1:9

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”

Of course, Christians can struggle with their security in Christ when they are taught legalism (Gal. 1:6). But no Christian will abandon Jesus Christ (His death and resurrection), as this verse suggests, denying that He died for sinners who need salvation. A reconciled sinner shows evidence of God’s divine work in his life by proper doctrinal belief in the basic Bible doctrines about Christ. Nevertheless, no Christian can really enjoy the hope of the Gospel unless they place their total faith and confidence in the Gospel from the start to the completion of their Christian lives.

This is because we have no hope when we look to ourselves who are sinners and failures. Our only hope is to look to Jesus Christ who died for us and rose again to provide a complete salvation for us.

When I am on my deathbed, I want to have hope. And the only sure hope I can possess is that Jesus died for me.

Charles Spurgeon once said:
“Jesus died for me. I can go to Heaven on this.”

The same is true for each one of us who have placed our total faith and confidence in Christ for our salvation. We have no part in our salvation. Jesus paid it all upon the cross and rose again from the dead. His death and resurrection give us the hope of the forgiveness of all our sins, the hope of legal justification before God, and the hope of going to Heaven when we die. We used to sing these words in a college vocal group:

“Good news, good news, good news!
The Lord has saved my soul and that’s good news!
He keeps me day by day and that’s good news.
He keeps me day by day and that’s good news.”

The Gospel is good news. It brings hope into our hearts when we rest in the Gospel facts of Christ’s death and resurrection to give us eternal salvation.

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you for the hope that I can have through the Gospel. I know that my salvation is secure through Christ’s death and resurrection and that I will one day enter into Your presence. Thank you for this reassuring and thrilling hope. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I thank You that my heavenly destiny is sure because it is based upon the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

Colossians 1:27 (The HOPE of Glory)

“To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery (*sacred secret not revealed in the Old Testament*) among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

This is similar to a previous point on the hope of our heavenly destiny. Hope is also experienced in our lives as we look forward to “glory” which can be another expression of our future, heavenly destination (1 Tim. 3:16). The word “glory” can refer to the splendor and magnificence of the heavenly city that we will one day enter. The “hope of glory” can refer to the hope of dwelling within Heaven someday and enjoying the blessings of this heavenly destination.

I was preaching from Colossians during the first service we had in our new church building. I can remember speaking from this verse. As a result of this message, a man came to faith in Christ. It was a genuine conversion experience. Following the service, this man said to me that Christ was on the outside of him and he wanted Christ to be on the inside, so he could go to Heaven. God gloriously saved this man and today he is in Glory because of it! So, the word “glory” can point to our future dwelling place in Heaven.

As we have also previously seen, this future “glory” also relates to sharing Christ’s moral glory and perfections when possessing our redemptive body (Col. 3:4; 5:2; 8:18, 30; 2 Cor. 4:17; Gal. 5:5; 1 Pet. 5:10). Someday we will be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ (1 John 3:2), possessing glorified bodies like Jesus Christ, deathless and sinless bodies, and sharing in His glory as joint heirs of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:17-18). To think that we will share in the moral glory of Jesus Christ in view of what God has done for us (making us like His Son Jesus Christ) is certainly another aspect of our hope of glory! Whenever we reflect on what lies before us, we will be filled with hope and amazement. We will allow this future glory to fill us with hope, knowing that what lies ahead of us, far outweighs the difficulties and trials that we are passing through right now in our lives.

Romans 8:17-19 is worth reviewing:

“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us (*the moral glory we will experience in a newly transformed body*). For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth (*eagerly yearns*) for the manifestation of the sons of God” (*the unveiling of God’s sons in their redemptive and glorified bodies during the Millennium and Eternal State, when they will share Christ’s glory as joint-heirs of Christ*).

The future glory of a redeemed body, Christlikeness, and the revelation of us as God’s sons will enable us to keep a proper perspective on the present and temporary trials we are facing in life. In short, there is no comparison between our trials today and the glory that we will receive in the future. This will be the time when share in Christ’s glory, as join-heirs of Christ, when we possess glorified bodies and are openly honored and exalted with the full splendor and glory as

God's sons This is the hope of glory ("the hope of the glory of God" - Rom. 5:2) that He will one day share with us!

How does all of this apply to us today? Our future glory and hope should keep us from losing hope today as we pass through difficult times and trials. The future and eternal glory that awaits us provides each one of us with a right attitude toward trials today. Our future hope reminds us that what we are passing through today is transitory and will give way to that which is glorious and eternal – a new body, Christlikeness, sharing in Christ's glory as the redeemed and glorified sons of God!

One of the early explorers of South Africa's ocean waters, Bartolomeu Dias, went around a cape on a stormy sea. His ship was threatened by the waves and may very well have broken in pieces. For this reason, he called the place the "Cape of Storms." But another explorer, who came later, changed the name to the "Cape of Good Hope," for he saw ahead of him the jewels and treasures of India.

Today our lives are filled with many storms. We often experience many trials and tribulations associated with the here and now. We are storm-tossed saints. But if we can see the glorious redemption, destiny, and eternity that lies ahead of us, we can live in the "Cape of Good Hope" and look forward to all the future treasures that await us. As God's people, we need to keep looking up, since the best is yet to come!

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Lord, I do want to live with hope in my heart and possess a right attitude toward the trials I am facing in life. I thank you that my trials in view of eternity are temporary and going to pass away someday. I know that I will enter the glories of Heaven, my final frontier and eternal blessing. I also look forward to sharing in Christ's moral glory when I receive my redeemed body, free from all sin. With great hope and anticipation, I long for the coming day when I will be perfect and live in a place of great wonder and magnificence that will thrill my heart throughout eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen."

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (The HOPE of Patiently Waiting for Jesus)

"Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father."

Hope is also experienced when we possess patience in view of Christ's return for His children. Our work (service), faith, love and patience are to be rooted in the hope that we possessed in the return of the Lord Jesus for His saints. In the context, the hope was a specific hope centered upon the coming of Jesus Christ in the Rapture to rescue His people from their persecution in the world, including the coming wrath of the seven-year Tribulation Period. At this time (the Rapture) the Lord Jesus will change our bodies and take us home to the Father's House (John 14:1-3).

1 Thessalonians 1:10 declares:

"And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus (His specific return in the Rapture), which delivered us from the wrath to come" (the specific seven-year wrath of the Tribulation Period).

These Christians possessed a tremendous hope that they would be rescued from the coming earthly wrath that would fall upon the world after Christ's return in the Rapture. You will notice that the promise is given that we will be delivered from the specific wrath of the Tribulation Period (the promise of pretribulationism).

The word "patience" (1 Thess. 1:3) speaks of endurance and connotes bearing up patiently under a heavy load which was inspired by possessing hope in the return of Christ. In other words, these Christians possessed patience or endurance while waiting for God's Son from Heaven which was the specific hope that they possessed in Christ's return. This hope was centered in their steadfast waiting for Jesus to return for them. They had been undergoing persecution because of their valiant stand for Christ. But no cracks had appeared in what someone has called their "sheer dogged endurance."

Their hope was that Jesus would come back for them. His return in the Rapture could happen at any moment and they would be rescued from the coming judgment of the Tribulation Period (not wrath but Rapture!). Also, these Christians would experience the joys of being taken away from their present persecution, problems, and personal trials on earth and eternally dwell with Jesus in Heaven. What a tremendous hope that these Christians possessed – a hope or confident expectation that Jesus would return before the terrible Tribulation Period would

occur on earth and rescue His saints from all their worldly troubles and trails in life.

Titus 2:13 explains the saint's anticipation of Christ's return in this way:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

This was a specific happy hope to be experienced at Christ's return for His Bride – His Church Age saints. It would be a blessed hope for when Jesus returns His saints would experience their final redemption from sin, suffering, and be rewarded for their lifetime of living and service for Jesus Christ. They would also be delivered from the terrible seven-year Tribulation Period that would be unleashed on planet earth after Christ's return for His saints. In every way the return of Christ for His children was a blessed hope to look forward to and patiently wait for as they suffered and experienced trials. They could patiently wait for Jesus' return for them knowing that He would rescue them, reunite them with Himself, and release them from all their earthly struggles.

“Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o’ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! ’tis the voice of angels
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.
Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o’ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Lord, I do have a blessed hope. I want to experience this in my daily life. May I live in such a way that I might with great anticipation look for the return of my Savior and possess the hope that awaits me in the coming day. But may this future hope have practical implications in my life right now as I pass through difficult days and trails. May my glorious future spring forth hope in my

heart today as I eagerly wait for my final deliverance. I look forward to being finally home and safe in the arms of Jesus. I pray this in Jesus' name, amen."

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (The HOPE of Seeing our Loved Ones)

"For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"

Hope is also experienced in our hearts when we realize that at the coming of Jesus Christ we will see our saved loved ones in Christ. What a tremendous future hope we have of seeing our mother, father, husband, wife, child, or uncle who died possessing a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. As we anticipate the Lord's return, we can be sure that we will meet our loves ones in the air and experience a reunion with them. It will be all day singing and dinner on the ground!

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep (*those who have died before the return of Christ*), that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope (the unsaved have no hope of ever seeing their loved ones again). For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again (*faith in the Gospel*), even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (*at the coming of Christ our saved loves ones will return with Jesus*). For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (*precede*) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds (*a reunion with our loved ones will occur*), to meet the Lord in the air (*a reunion with the Lord will be experienced*): and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

"Friends will be there I have loved long ago;
Joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior, I know,
Will through the ages be glory for me!"

Yes, these are truths and words of comfort and hope for us who know Christ as our Savior and who have loved ones that have died and gone on before us. We

will meet them at the return of Christ. There will be a wonderful reunion and restored fellowship together that will go on throughout eternity. What a blessed hope we have in seeing them again. Yes, we will meet our grandpa's and grandpa's, our mothers and fathers, and children who may have died before us. We will meet our fellow believers that we have enjoyed fellowshiping with while on earth. They will all be there who dies possessing faith in Christ Jesus. Can you even imagine how wonderful and glorious it will be when we meet together in this coming day of grand reunion! The half has not been told! At Christ's coming or at the time of our own death will meet our loved ones in Christ again!

“Oh, the joys of that glad meeting
With the saints who for us wait!
What a blessed, happy meeting
Just inside the Eastern Gate!

I will meet you, I will meet you
Just inside the Eastern Gate over there;
I will meet you, I will meet you,
I will meet you in the morning over there.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Lord, I long to see those who have gone on before me and meet them once again in this great coming reunion at Christ's return. I am so thankful that I do not have to sorrow like those who have no hope of seeing their loved ones again. I'm so grateful that You have given me this blessed promise and hope in my heart today. Help me to adjust to the loss of my loved ones in view of the time when we will all be gathered together again. In Jesus name, Amen.”

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (The HOPE of Deliverance and Victory)

“But let us, who are of the day (*morning people who live in the light of God's holiness*), be sober (*spiritually alert*), putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (*deliverance from the future Tribulation Period*).

Hope is also experienced in our daily lives as we anticipate our future and final deliverance at the coming of Jesus Christ for His saints. This verse is placed within the context of possessing victory which is described in the military terms of wearing protective armor. We are to mentally place upon ourselves the armor of

God and live victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the devil. The sons of light (God's children) should wear the protective covering to live a consistent godly life.

The armor is presented here as faith or dependence on God and His promises to protect us during temptation (Eph. 6:10). It's also linked to our love for the Lord and for one another (Heb. 10:25). Finally, the armor is likened to a helmet of hope which related to Christ's future deliverance for His people at His return (1 Thess. 1:3). The spiritual armor should provide us with victory today as we face temptations. The point seems to be this. If God can deliver us from the future Tribulation wrath, then He can certainly deliver us from Satan's temptations.

The expression "the hope of salvation" (deliverance) is contextually referring to the return of Christ and Rapture of God's saints back to their heavenly home (1 Thess. 5:9-10). Once again, Paul is teaching that we will be delivered from the seven-year Tribulation Period which is identified in this context as "the day of the Lord" (1 Thess. 5:2) with the promise that God's children would not be overtaken and consumed by this frightful period of time when God's wrath falls on planet earth.

Paul reminds them "that day should" not "overtake you as a thief" (1 Thess. 5:4). In other words, they would not unexpectedly enter this awful period of God's judgment wrath which will be meted out on earth. This is because they would be raptured to Heaven prior to this dreadful time period and experience their redemption and reunion with Christ in the heavenlies. It is certain because God has not appointed His children to this wrath (1 Thess. 1:10). The believer is not appointed to wrath but to salvation (deliverance from this coming judgment upon earth). We are not appointed to pass through the Day of the Lord but to the Rapture (pretribulationism). The believer's hope is the Rapture. We are not watching for wrath but waiting for the Lord (Phil. 3:20 – "We look for the Saviour").

1 Thessalonians 5:8 is referring to the specific hope we have of future deliverance from this coming time of wrath and judgment that will be unleashed upon the earth (Rev. 3:10). Paul says this promise of future deliverance from God's earthly wrath in the judgments of the seven-year Tribulation Period (Dan. 9:27) would not fall upon God's beloved Church Age saints. They would be raptured and rescued from the earth before all of this occurs as outlined in the Book of Revelation.

Again, God's New Testament saints have the hope of Rapture and not wrath! What a tremendous hope we have of rescue from God's coming judgment over the earth.

Here is the practical note of victory. The blessed hope of Christ's return and our rescue from all of God's wrath and judgment should be part of our victorious armor that enables us to experience daily victory over temptation. In other words, this truth must be believed and embraced by God's children to give His children peace and assurance that God's wrath will not overcome or overtake them in any way. The point seems to be this, victory cannot be experienced in our daily Christian life if God is not good on all His promises. The hope of rescuing us from His future wrath is one of God's promises that ensures us of His present deliverance from the power of sin. Again, if God has promised to deliver us in the future, He will certainly victoriously deliver us today from all our temptations and trials.

2 Peter 2:9 makes a similar analogy:

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

The unsaved are judged without God's help but God's people can claim their spiritual deliverance from the trials of life. The blessed hope of the Rapture and our future rescue from earthly judgment reassures us that God will also deliver us from Satan's temptation and power today. The believers hope of their expectation of a future deliverance should act as a protective helmet against all of Satan's blows today that they experience. Satan tries to defeat us mentally, but the promise of God's future deliverance protects our minds from his temptations today by reassuring us that God always delivers His people! This means we don't have to give in to Satan's tricks that he tries to play with our minds. Knowing that Jesus will deliver us from future wrath gives us the reassurance that we can be delivered today and live victoriously over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

The blessed of hope of the Rapture is to have a victorious impact upon our lives. Since God is good on His promise of deliverance in the future, He will also be good on His promise to deliver His people from temptation today. May the hope of the Rapture bring comfort and reassurance to our hearts today!

“It could happen in a moment!
In the twinkling of an eye
It could happen in a moment he could split the eastern sky.
Though our hearts will feel unworthy yea how happy we will be,
When the saviour comes from Heaven when his blessed face we'll see!
I am listening every moment,
For the mighty trumpet sound, what a time we'll have together
When the saints will leave the ground!
All our toiling will be over!
All our sorrow and its pain!
It could happen in a moment, Jesus Christ could come again!”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Father, I claim the promise of my future deliverance from the Tribulation Period. Thank you for this wonderful hope and prospect! Because of the reassurance of my future victory, I can claim the promise of deliverance over the temptations and trials I am facing right now in my life. You are always good on You promises. What You promised to do for me in the future You can do for me right now. So, in view of the blessed hope of this future deliverance, I now claim spiritual victory and deliverance over my present trials today through Your divine power and assistance. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (The HOPE of Grace)

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.”

Hope is also experienced in our lives when we mediate upon God’s amazing grace. God’s grace is the foundation for our eternal (unending) encouragement in the face of any temporary present distress (“consolation ... through grace”). This comfort and encouragement that we need is rooted in the manifestation of God’s grace on Calvary’s cross. The cross makes the difference! It gives us the hope of spending eternity with God which in return makes our present trials seem rather small and insignificant by comparison (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

God’s grace is also the foundation of our hope (“good hope through grace”) and this hope is good (beneficial) for it assures each believer that they have been saved by grace (Eph. 2:8-9) and will one day enter Heaven. This hope looks back to the greatest exhibition of God’s love - the gift of His Son for us. Because we know

that He settled the sin question at Calvary (we will never be judged for our sins for Jesus was judged in our place), we have comfort right now and the hope of a glorious future in Heaven. And it's all through His marvelous grace!

“And it's all because of God's amazing grace!
Because on Calvary's Mountain he took my place!
And someday, some glorious morning,
I shall see him face to face,
All because of God's amazing grace.”

What a tremendous unchanging consolation and hope we have through the unchanging grace of God!

1 Timothy 1:1 (The Hope through Jesus)

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is* our hope.”

Jesus Himself provides us with hope through His saving work on Calvary's cross. We have absolutely no hope outside of the saving work of Jesus Christ. This means we must focus our attention upon Jesus Christ. We need to keep “Looking unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:2) for He is the underlying basis for our future hope of Heaven and our eternal destiny and dwelling with Him (John 14:1-3). The fact that Christ is “our hope” means that we can be certain of the fulfillment of God's saving plan in Christ (“Christ in you, the hope of glory” - Col. 1:27). If you want hope for the future look no further than Jesus Christ! If you want to shrink your problems that you are passing through today, compare them to the tremendous hope that lies before you!

“My hope is in the Lord
Who gave Him-self for me
And paid the price
Of all my sin at Calvary.
For me He died;
For me He lives,
And everlasting life
And light He freely gives.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Lord Jesus, I thank You for dying on the cross for me and giving me the hope of everlasting life in Heaven. I am so grateful I can cast my complete confidence in your saving work to take me to Heaven. You are all I need for salvation and eternal life. I continue to commit my faith alone in Your saving work to bring me into Heaven. You are my Savior. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Titus 1:1 -2 (The HOPE of Eternal Life)

“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

Hope is also experienced when we know that we have eternal life and will never be judged for any of our sins. Our eternal life is based upon the very character of God (“God, which cannot lie”). Many of God’s saints struggle with the fact that they still sin after they become a Christian. Therefore, they sometimes wonder if eternal life is based on their human merit (good works) instead of His grace. But God’s Word clearly teaches that eternal life is based upon the free gift of His grace. It has nothing to do with our own life or legalistic attempts to gain God’s favor.

The Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by grace and not by works (Eph. 2:8-9). This is true from the start of our Christian life up to when we cross the finish line at our death and departure into the Lord’s presence. Grace saves and since salvation can only be by grace, grace takes across the finish line in spite of our sinful shortcomings. This is because grace forgives us of all our sins (past, present, and future) providing us with the hope of eternal life based upon God’s saving grace.

2 Timothy 1:9

“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

You see, grace is what saved us, the grace of Jesus Christ that was displayed on the cross when Jesus was judged for our sins and provided complete acquittal or forgiveness for all our sins. Revelation 1:5 says, “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” Yes, all our sins are washed away the

moment we place faith in Christ, and this brings the assurance and certainty that we possess eternal life. Eternal life is unconditional, unending, unmerited, and unearned.

Titus 3:7 gives a similar promise:

“That being justified (*declared legally righteous*) by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Hope once again refers to the confident expectancy and assurance that we will experience everything that God has promised to us. Eternal life is a certainty because of God’s justifying grace. God by His amazing grace has declared us to be legally acquitted and righteous in His presence. This means we will enjoy eternal life because of God’s grace. We can be sure that what began by grace (our salvation) will end by grace! This gives us the hope of eternal life in our hearts. It’s reassuring to know that grace will lead us home!

“The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we first begun.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Heavenly Father, I am so thankful that you have given me the hope of eternal life. I’m so glad I can have the complete confidence that I am going to Heaven when I die based upon Your promise of eternal life. I know that Your word is true and therefore I claim the promise of 1 John 5:11 today that says, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” I also claim what you have said in 1 John 5:13: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Titus 2:13 (The HOPE of the Rapture)

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Hope is also experienced as we anticipate the imminent return of Christ in the Rapture and the time we will see Jesus. I was recently at an ordination and a missionary to Israel was asked what his deepest longing was in life? He paused for a moment and said, “Seeing Jesus.”

You will notice that in this verse our “blessed hope” (happy hope!) is centered in the appearing of Jesus Christ in the Rapture for His Church and taking His Bride back to Heaven to live with Him (John 14:1-3). The “appearing” (epiphany or manifestation) of Jesus Christ as our God and Savior centers upon each one of us seeing Christ and experiencing His presence for the very first time. Imagine, seeing Jesus Christ, our beloved Savior when He comes to take us home to Heaven. What a day glorious day it will be! Suddenly, Jesus will appear, and we will be raptured or caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17). And then, we will be taken back to live with Him in the Father’s House! This is our happy hope! It will be a happy ending and new beginning that will be literally out of this world! So, when the outlook is bad, try the uplook!

“Sweet is the hope that is thrilling my soul—
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
Then what if the dark clouds of sin o’er me roll,
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!

I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!
What a joy it will be
When His face I shall see,
I know I’ll see Jesus some day!

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Lord Jesus, I look forward to the blessed hope of the Rapture. I know that You are going to return for me and take me back to Heaven to live with You forever. I want to live with the expectancy of Your return in my heart every day knowing that You will change my body, relieve me of all my trials, and take me home to Heaven. I look and long for this day with great hope. Perhaps today! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Hebrews 3:6 (The HOPE of salvation)

“But Christ as a son over his own house (the Church – God’s people); whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence (we must continue to express our faith and assurance in Christ, not in our own works or in anything else, that we have complete access and acceptance before the Father through Christ) and the rejoicing of the hope (the hope of our salvation paid by the blood of Jesus Christ) firm unto the end” (the end of our days on earth or until the Rapture).

Hope is also experienced when we as God’s children maintain our hope in Christ alone as the way of salvation. Jesus said, “I am the way” – no one else or anything else (John 14:6). The phrase “the rejoicing of the hope” is referring to the hope of our salvation, the absolute confidence that God will save us completely and forever, maintaining our justified position before God up to the end of our time on earth.

This verse is not teaching that we can somehow earn and possess salvation because of our endurance in good works. The writer is not suggesting that we, as Christians, must keep ourselves saved. This would contradict the major theme of the book which is the finished work of Christ and His heavenly ministry guaranteeing our eternal salvation.

Hebrews 7:25

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

In Hebrews 3:6 the writer is affirming that those who hold fast their confidence and hope in Christ alone to be their Savior are proving or giving evidence that they are truly born again. In other words, the faith in Christ that saves a person is a faith which begins to rest in Christ alone and continues to remain there throughout one’s life on earth. This is what brings hope into our hearts. The true meaning is that we PROVE we are God’s house (His people) if we hold fast or endure in the truth that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. Endurance in faith alone in Christ is a proof of reality – the proof of our salvation. If we endure in the doctrine of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone, we can have the confidence that we will enter Heaven. And this confidence in Christ results in hope.

Those who lose confidence in Christ and in His promises, denying His sacrifice as the only way of salvation and which return to rituals and ceremonies under the Law, show that they were never born again. This is actually a warning against apostasy (1 John 2:19).

The essence of “rejoicing” consists of the realization that Christ has totally satisfied the righteous demands of God for a person’s sins and that his rejoicing rests in the Son of God alone to be his Savior (Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:1). So, “the rejoicing of the hope” to the end of our lives or until the Rapture is a blessing that we can experience if we keep trusting in Christ alone to save us and maintain our justified position before God’s throne. If we know we are saved eternally by the sacrifice of Christ, there will be a lot of rejoicing and hope!

Hebrews 6:11 is similar in its meaning:

“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope (*the hope of salvation through Christ’s sacrifice*) unto the end” (*the end of our days on earth or the Rapture*).

Again, we discover that we can possess what the Bible calls “the full assurance of hope” which is a total and continual confidence in Christ’s death to have paid sin’s penalty for us and providing us with complete acquittal and justification in God’s presence forever.

Hebrews 5:9 adds:

“And being made perfect (*the sinless sacrifice of Christ*), he became the author of eternal salvation (*the source of salvation*) unto all them that obey him” (*the sanctification of God’s children*).

Obedience is not the requirement to earn eternal salvation but is the proof or reality of one’s salvation. This obedience is placed in the context of apostasy which the epistle is warning against. Here is the point. We can possess the full assurance of hope (the complete and unwavering confidence of our eternal salvation) and be rejoicing in the blessed hope that the death of Christ forever forgives us and justifies us in God’s presence.

“Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died;

He, our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation;
Hail Him! hail Him! Jesus the Crucified!
Sound His praises! Jesus, who bore our sorrows,
Love unbounded wonderful, deep and strong:
Praise Him! praise Him!
Tell of His excellent greatness;
Praise Him! Praise Him! ever in joyful song!"

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Father, I am thrilled that I can rejoice in the hope that Jesus paid for my salvation when suffering and dying on the cross on my behalf. His death was accepted by You on my behalf as paying the penalty for all my sins. Today I find great hope in the finished work of Jesus Christ upon the cross. While on the cross, Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He truly is my hope. I will by faith keep looking to the cross of Christ as the sufficient payment for my sin. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Hebrews 6:18 -19 (The HOPE of Eternal Security)

"That by two immutable things (God's Word and His oath - a solemn witness, promise, and guarantee from God), in which it was impossible for God to lie (God's character of faithfulness backs up His Word and oath), we might have a strong consolation (comfort and encouragement), who have fled for refuge (by expressing faith in Christ we have found refuge or safety from God's judgment and wrath) to lay hold upon the hope set before us (the assurance of our heavenly destiny): Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul (God's word and oath is comparable to an anchor for our lives), both sure and steadfast (the anchor of God's promise and oath of our eternal salvation provides us with assurance and unwavering confidence that Jesus Christ is all we need to take us to Heaven), and which entereth into that within the veil" (our hope is based upon Christ as our forerunner who has already entered the Holy of Holies of Heaven as our High Priest, which gives us the hope or complete assurance of our own acceptance before the Father's throne, but also entering into our heavenly home someday).

As we have been seeing in our verses in Hebrews, we can possess hope (a confident expectancy and assurance) that the sacrifice of Christ is sufficient to provide us with complete forgiveness and justification before God. His high priestly ministry on our behalf confirms our completed salvation and guarantees our eternal security (Heb. 7:25).

Hebrews 6:18-19 looks back to the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant and the word and oath God expressed to Abraham in giving to him this covenant. What God promised would happen would come to pass. When plugged into the context of Hebrews, we are given the hope of eternal security through God's Word and oath, that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins in full, and that we possess eternal security through the finished work of Christ.

The believer now has two unchangeable things on which to rely for his salvation and eternity destiny which is God's word and His oath (a guarantee). It is impossible to imagine anything more secure or certain than these two unchanging expressions from God! God promises to save all who believe on Christ; then He confirms it with an oath (a guaranteed promise). The conclusion is inevitable: the believer is eternally secure which means they are unable to lose the salvation God provided for them through Jesus Christ.

Here again we discover that we can experience hope as we place all our faith or confidence in Christ who provides us with our salvation. This means our soul can drop anchor upon Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross (John 19:30) and it's here we can find security and hope that we are going to Heaven when we die.

Think of it like this. An anchor is thrown overboard but a sailor does not see it. It plunges beneath the surface and takes hold in the sea's bottom, securing the ship and holding it in place during a storm. This is the kind of anchor we have in the finished work of Christ and His priestly ministry within the throne room of God. Christ's priestly ministry for us today in Heaven is an anchor that provides us with security, confidence, and hope!

“It will firmly hold in the floods of death,
When the waters cold chill our latest breath;
On the rising tide it can never fail,
While our hopes abide within the Veil.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Father, I thank Thee that I can continue to place my full confidence in the finished work of Christ on the cross to have paid the full penalty for my sins. I am also thankful that Christ is my High Priest in Heaven, representing and declaring the sufficiency of His sacrifice as paying my penalty for sin and maintaining my position of acceptance before Your throne. My hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have no other anchor to rest upon but the anchor of Your promise that Jesus paid it all and that He is all I need to get to Heaven. Heavenly Father, I will keep on believing in the death, resurrection, and priestly ministry of Christ within Heaven to grant me full, final, and eternal acceptance in the presence of Your throne room. My hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ alone which assures me of my heavenly destiny. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Hebrews 7:19 (The HOPE of Grace and Acceptance)

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope *did*; by the which we draw nigh unto God” (*possessing acceptance in the throne room of God*).

Hope is experienced today in our lives when we as God’s children experience the hope that grace brings into our lives. This Bible verse is placed in the context of the Mosaic Law versus grace. The law was weak and useless, as previously stated (Heb. 7:18), in the sense that it made nothing perfect. It could not produce salvation or sanctification in the lives of people. The people were never able to go into the presence of God in the Most Holy Place and have full and final acceptance in God’s presence. This enforced distance between God and man was a constant reminder that the sin question was not settled once for all. So, the law could only cover sin through blood sacrifices, but it could not take away sins and make the worshipper perfectly accepted in God’s presence forever through the finished work of Christ.

But now a better hope has been introduced through the New Covenant work of Jesus Christ. He has entered the Holy of Holies in Heaven and given us full and final acceptance (unrestricted access) in the presence of God through His sacrificial death. As a result, “we draw nigh unto God” by not only possessing a positional nearness to God but also a new relational nearness to God. We can draw near to God knowing that He fully, finally, and forever accepts us through Jesus Christ. But we can also experience God’s intimate presence and help in a

greater way since we are brought inside the heavenly veil through Jesus Christ. Our acceptance and nearness to God brings hope into our lives. We can always pray to God knowing that He accepts and loves us and will help us through our struggles in life.

Hebrews 4:16 declares:

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

The “bringing in of a better hope” (Hebrews 7:19) refers to our hope through Jesus Christ, our High Priest in Heaven, who opens the pathway into the presence of God, giving us eternal acceptance and daily help in our lives through the manifestation of His grace (Heb. 7:25). Our better hope is the Lord Jesus Himself. This is because He has given us a pathway of acceptance and nearness to God which can only be experienced by New Testament saints.

Sadly, many Christians live a legal relationship with God instead of a grace relationship with Him. If we will experience the hope of grace and acceptance that we have before God through Jesus Christ alone, we will find rest for our souls in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We will also experience God’s loving acceptance and help in our lives without the fear of His reprisal and judgment. All of this is based upon grace – not law (legalism or our works).

“Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But oh, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story– Saved by grace;
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story– Saved by grace.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Heavenly Father, I am so grateful that I have a blessed and better hope of full and final acceptance in Your presence through Your Son Jesus Christ. His finished work gives me this better hope! I know that I am Your child and find security and assurance in my positional acceptance through Jesus Christ. I am grateful that I have this new positional acceptance inside the throne

room of Heaven. I am also thankful that I can experience a practical nearness with You in my daily living as I sense Your presence in my life and as You reach out to meet my needs. In Jesus' name, amen."

1 Peter 1:3-4 (The HOPE of the Resurrection and New Birth)

"Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again (*the rebirth that results in our hope*) unto a lively hope (*the reality of a living hope*) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (*the reason for our hope*). To an inheritance (*the reminder of our hope*) incorruptible (*deathless*), and undefiled (*spotless*), and that fadeth not away (*timeless*), reserved in heaven for you" (*safeness*).

We have mentioned this verse in a previous point. Again, we discover that our hope is also experienced in our daily lives when we realize that through Christ's resurrection we are given life (regeneration) and the promise of a wonderful future destiny. We have a glorious destiny that awaits us! Peter reminds us that our hope stems from our regeneration ("begotten us again") which is the time we began to possess our future heavenly hope. But the foundation of our hope is based upon Christ's resurrection from the dead.

That fact Christ rose from the dead gives us the confident hope and reassurance that we will one day enter our future inheritance which would include everything that God has prepared for us in the future (a new body, a new dwelling place, eternal bliss). If Christ is still dead, we have no hope of ever experiencing our future inheritance (1 Cor. 15:16-20). But since Christ rose from the dead and is seated at the Father's right hand, we can be sure of our acceptance within God's presence and therefore will one day experience our full inheritance.

1 Peter 1:5 adds these hope-filled words:

"Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

This means that God will keep His children saved, safe, and secure up to the time of their final salvation or deliverance (the redemption of our body). The "salvation ready to be revealed" is referring to the final aspect of our salvation (our future salvation) which will result in the deliverance of our body from sin and death through either the Rapture or resurrection. Part of our future inheritance is

this ultimate salvation or deliverance that we will experience when Jesus returns for His children and gives us a new body. Yes, we can be sure that we will enter into every future blessing that God has planned for His children. Everything is reserved and waiting for us!

“O mercy all abundant
Bestow’d on us to-day!
O hope of future glory
Which fadeth not away!
By God’s great love begotten
To living hope and sure,
May we at Christ’s appearing
Be pure as He is pure.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Lord, I am excited and truly hopeful to someday enter my future inheritance. I want to possess this “living hope” and reality in my heart today. I have a tremendous future that awaits me. May the security, purity, and eternal nature of this future inheritance thrill my soul and produce hope in my heart regarding the future. But may this future hope also enable me to face my trials today, helping me to realize that the best days are ahead! The place You have prepared for me in Heaven, my new redemptive body, and being with Christ someday is my future inheritance. I want to live in light of this possessing great anticipation and joy in my heart. Give me the living hope that Peter talked about. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

1 Peter 1:13 (The HOPE of Glorification)

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Hope is also experienced in our hearts today as we once again look to the final aspect of the revelation of grace extended to our lives. This will occur when we get our new redemptive bodies that are free from sin, disease, and death. Yes, we have “hope to the end” which in this context refers to the glorification of our bodies (1 Peter 1:5, 7, 9). The “end” is referencing the grand finale or end of our salvation experience which will occur at the Rapture of the Church (John 14:1-3).

Paul is teaching that we are to remain spiritually sober today and keep fighting sin, knowing that there is coming a day when the struggles will be over, and this day will come when we receive our newly glorified bodies at the Rapture. So, we are to live with the Rapture and our glorification in view. A better day is coming when the struggles with sin and the old nature will no longer exist. The assurance of Christ's return in the Rapture and our new bodies is to be seen as a compelling motive for endurance through the storms and tribulations of life and our struggles with sin. Our future hope should provide us with spiritual endurance today as we face the many trials related to this world and sin.

The sense is this. It can be grueling today, but it may be glory for us tomorrow! The future is to provide us with the needed spiritual stamina to face our trials head on knowing that they are temporary and a better day is coming. Yes, it will be glory for me when I see receive my redemptive body and see Jesus for the very first time!

“When all my labors and trials are o’er,
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore
Will through the ages be glory for me.

O that will be glory for me,
Glory for me, glory for me;
When by His grace I shall look at His face,
That will be glory, be glory for me.”

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Father, I know that glory awaits me. I can possess the thrilling hope that You will finish my salvation by giving me a glorified body, a body that is sinless, painless, and deathless. I want to live with this hope inspiring my heart and providing me with the assurance that the best is yet to come. I pray that this glory that awaits me will be a living reality in my heart today and provide me with the joyous hope that a good ending is coming. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

1 Peter 1:20-21 (The HOPE of God)

“Who (*Christ and the payment for our sin*) verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times (*revealed in the present age in which we live today through His incarnation*) for you, Who by him (*through our salvation in Christ*) do believe in God (*the Father*), that raised him up from the dead (*the resurrection of Christ*), and gave him glory (*the ascension of*

Christ at the right hand of the Father in Heaven); that (with the result) your faith and hope might be in God.”

Hope is also to be experienced in our daily lives when we realize that through Jesus Christ (His death, resurrection, and ascension) we can put our faith and hope in God for our salvation. Peter is teaching here that because of God’s eternal plan and priceless payment for sin through Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19), we can place our faith and hope in the Heavenly Father for our completed salvation. If God loved us enough to plan out our salvation before the world was created, then we can express our hope in God the Father to maintain our salvation through Christ’s resurrection and ascension into Heaven where He is our acting High Priest. So, when our faith and hope is in God, we are trusting in His secure provision for our salvation through His Beloved Son. This means we can express hope in God on a daily basis to maintain our salvation which was planned before the earth was every formed. God planned to save you and keep you saved!

PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear God, my hope of salvation from hell and the hope of Heaven can only and forever be in You. Your perfect plan of the cross, resurrection, and ascension of Your Son, Jesus Christ, provides me with the hope I need today. My hope stems from Your eternal plan to save sinners like me and to maintain their salvation through Christ’s resurrection and ascension. Now I pray that my hope would continue to remain God-centered and therefore Christ-centered. I pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

1 Peter 3:15 (The HOPE of Salvation and Evangelism)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer (*a defense*) to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (*with a gentle spirit and reverence toward God*).

This verse emphasizes that we can share the hope we have in our Christian lives with others. It’s this hope (the hope of salvation and eternal life) that gives us the boldness to evangelize the unsaved and show them that Jesus can also give them an eternal hope (John 14:6). To sanctify the Lord God in our hearts means to put Jesus Christ first in your life. When we are living for the Lord we will be ready to answer those who have questions regarding salvation. The point is this. We will be ready to share our hope with others when we possess the absolute assurance and

confidence that we are saved, secure, and someday going to enter Heaven through Jesus Christ.

Many years ago a submarine was rammed by another ship and quickly sank off the Massachusetts coast. Although a rescue was impossible at that depth, a diver was dispatched to determine if there was life still aboard the disabled vessel. The diver placed his helmeted ear against the sub's hull and heard a faint tapping sound. Carefully he made note of the dots and dashes and decoded the following question: "Is—there—any—hope?" With great remorse he slowly signaled back: "Hope—in—God—alone."

Previously, before we were saved, we had no hope ("having no hope" - Eph. 2:12) but now we can possess a confident and reassuring hope that we are saved and going to Heaven someday. This hope is related to our evangelistic endeavors in that we should always be prepared, at any given moment, to give the reason for the hope that resides in our hearts. Of course, the reason is because Jesus died and rose again from the grave to give us the free gift of eternal life (John 3:16; 11:25-26).

Of all people, Christians should be filled with a continual and life-changing hope that can be experienced in every phase of their lives. God gives us hope today through His sustaining grace and mercies but also a hope that is related to our future destiny with Him in Heaven. Hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow!

"Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below."

PRAYER OF HOPE: "Gracious God, I want to live with an unshakeable hope that is filling and thrilling my soul. I really do want to concentrate on living day by day with the hope that I can experience as I embrace the promises of Scripture by faith. I thank You that Your present and future promises bring hope to my heart. I don't want it to be a hope that is distant or way off in the future, but a hope for my personal life today and a bright hope for tomorrow. May I keep on believing

and abounding in hope through the Holy Spirit as I continue to live out my days on this earth and move closer toward the dawning of the great eternal day when I will be with You and share Your likeness in glory. In Jesus' name, amen."