

## **Abiding Hope**

### **Video - Hope is Here This Christmas**

#### **1 Corinthians 13:13**

**“So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love”.**

#### **Introduction:**

Hope is a beautiful word used by people all over the world. It represents the possibility of a positive outcome, a beacon of light in the darkness. It is highly esteemed in the Bible, and many biblical characters spoke of it.

However, hope in the Bible is different from its everyday use. Nowadays, hope is expecting something to happen, but not being entirely sure it will; it is more like a wish. For example, hoping it doesn't rain or hoping your favorite team wins the championship, etc.

The Merriam Webster Dictionary defines hope as “to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or to be true.” This definition is based on doubt and uncertainty, but biblical hope is knowing for a fact that the desired outcome will happen. It's not wishful thinking, but a confident expectation.

For further understanding, let's look at the Hebrew and Greek words for hope.

#### Hope in Hebrew

Two main Hebrew words are translated as hope in the Old Testament. The first word is yachal, and it appears about 48 times in the Old Testament.

According to Strong's concordance, yachal means to wait or to be patient. It is translated as such in some verses such as Genesis 8:12, 1 Samuel 10:8, 2 Kings 6:33, and Job 6:11. But it also appears as hope in other verses like Job 13:15, Psalm 31:24, and Psalm 71:14.

Yachal is most often associated with waiting on God; it may be waiting on His word, promises, or actions such as in Job 13:15 “Though He slays me, I will hope in Him.” But sometimes yachal is used when waiting continually or enduring such as in Psalm 71:14, “But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.”

The second word is tiqvah or qavah. Tiqvah means cord or attachment. It first appears in Joshua 2:18 “you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window...” and is translated as cord in the book of Joshua only. In other books, it is translated as hope, such as in Ruth 1:12, Job 4:6, Psalm 9:18, Proverbs 19:18, and the famous Jeremiah 29:11.

Tiqvah means to expect, and it is related to the Hebrew word qavah, which means to wait for, to expect, or look eagerly. Qavah comes from the root word qav, which means cord. Qavah is a feeling of tension and expectation while waiting for something to happen, like pulling a cord tight to produce a state of tension. Qavah appears in Genesis 49:18, Job 7:2, Psalm 25:3, Psalm 37:4, and is primarily translated as wait.

In conclusion, **Hope in the Old Testament means to wait for something with expectation and anticipation it will happen.** It is often accompanied by joy and pleasure, and it's related to God.

Hope in Greek

The word hope in the New Testament is from the Greek word elpis. According to Strong's Concordance, elpis means expectation, trust, and confidence. It comes from the root word elpo, which means to anticipate (with pleasure) and to welcome. Elpis is an expectation of what is guaranteed.

Elpis first appears in the New Testament in Matthew 12:21, “and in His name, the Gentiles will hope.” The word hope in this verse comes from the verb form of elpis, which is elpizo. In some versions, elpizo is hope and in other versions, trust.

Elpis appears over 50 times in the New Testament and is used when in anticipation of future events that are certain to come. **Hope in the New Testament means a reasonable expectation, looking towards the future with assurance.** It is also accompanied by joy and pleasure, and it's related to Jesus.

Putting it all together

Hope in the Bible is not a mere wish as used today that implies doubt. On the contrary, it is confidently expecting that something will happen and waiting patiently for it with joy and pleasure. **John Piper** puts it this way: **“Christian hope is a confidence that something will come to pass because God has promised it will come to pass.”**

Furthermore, biblical hope takes its foundation from faith. Hebrews 11:1 states “Faith is the substance of things hoped for.” We cannot have one without the other.

GotQuestions.org puts it this way: **“Faith and hope are complimentary. Faith is grounded in the reality of the past; hope is looking to the reality of the future. Without faith, there is no hope, and without hope, there is no true faith.”**

**Hope is looking expectantly towards the future based on our faith in God in the present and His faithfulness in the past.**

Christians need to have hope. It motivates us to move forward because life is a never ending flow of hardships and trials. When we have hope, we can navigate those turbulent waters without despair. We can have joy and peace despite our circumstances because we know we have a God that works all things for our good. As **Desmond Tutu** said, **“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”**

### **The Character of Biblical Hope**

**The Bible mentions the word hope about 129 times**, and it is one of the most important virtues of the Christian alongside faith and love. Here are some of its biblical attributes.

### **1. Hope is always in the future and never seen**

**For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. -Romans 8:24-25**

Hope requires trust in God; we do not see what we are waiting for, nor do we know when it will come. But through our trust in God, we are confident it will come, and we wait for it patiently.

### **2. Perseverance in our suffering brings hope.**

**Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, -Romans 5:3-4**

Trials, develop our endurance, and teach us to trust God despite our sufferings. And that perseverance builds our character and enables us to see beyond our current circumstances to the future God promised, which produces hope.

### **3. Hope brings joy and peace.**

**The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. -Proverbs 10:28**

Hope produces joy because you know a favorable event will happen, and your wait is not in vain.

### **4. Christ is our living hope.**

**waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, -Titus 2:13**

Christ is our living hope, the fulfillment of everything we wait for in this life. He is coming soon to make all things new, and Christians are expecting His return with joy.

### **5. We have hope for a resurrection.**

**But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep -1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

The Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14, if Jesus has not risen then our faith is empty and without His resurrection, we have no hope for the next life. But Christ is risen, and we can confidently expect to rise on the last day.

#### **6. Without Christ, there is no hope.**

**Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. -Ephesians 2:12**

If Biblical hope is waiting on a future event with confident expectation, and the word of God is the only sure thing in all of creation; therefore, without God, there is no hope. People that do not believe in Christ can not have hope in this life or the next.

#### **7. Hope makes us bold.**

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

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

Hebrews 6:18 says God can't lie. Every promise God makes will come to pass, and we can be bold and confident in our hope and even boast of it because we know it will happen.

Conclusion:

Malcolm Muggeridge was a very famous and highly respected British journalist who for many years was an ardent atheist. His opinions and thoughts were coveted by American publishers and

he occasionally wrote the editorial page for Time magazine. Toward the end of his illustrious career as the Dean of British broadcasters, he became a Christian.

Several years ago he was a guest at a breakfast in Washington, D.C. where he shared his life story. When he had finished his testimony, he made a number of comments about world affairs, all of which were very pessimistic. One of those present asked, "Dr. Muggeridge, you have been very pessimistic. Don't you have any reason for optimism?" He replied, "I could not be more optimistic than I am, because my hope is in Jesus Christ alone."

He allowed that remark to settle in for a few seconds, and then he added, "Just think if the apostolic church had pinned its hopes on the Roman Empire!" (Halverson/ The Living Body)

Immanuel Kant, said that there are three questions that everyone asks:

"What can I know?"

"What shall I do?"

"For what shall I hope?"

**Dr. Emil Brunner said, "What oxygen is for the lungs, such is hope for the meaning of human life." Take oxygen away and death occurs through suffocation, take hope away and humanity is constricted through lack of breath; despair and hopelessness set it."**

#### **Application: How to Live Life Full of Hope**

- **Pause and Reflect**
- **Remember What You Are Thankful For**
- **Limit Your Bad News Intake**
- **Focus On What You Can Look Forward To**
- **Build Relationships With Hopeful People**
- **Make Jesus, Our Living Hope, Your Top Priority Through Prayer**