

We all know life can be hard, but when life gets hard, we have a tendency to forget that life is supposed to be hard. We want life to be easy, but God has not designed it to be that way, especially for the Christian. The Christian has to live in this world while not being of the world and will face hard things because of that.

In John 16, Jesus provided the key to hope in midst of hardship.

JESUS HAS TAUGHT HOW TO HAVE HOPE WHEN LIFE GETS HARD.

How can we have hope when life gets hard? That's the question.

As I see it, there are 7 lessons that we need to know in order to have hope that Jesus offers.

Lesson #1 - When you're confused, take your confusion to Christ. **16:16-19**

The disciples were asking each other, but they failed to remember that Jesus, who is God in human flesh, was right there. They were asking each other when they should have been asking Jesus.

Have you ever forgotten to ask God? Before taking your problems and your confusions to your friends, your mentors, or anyone else, take them to the Lord. We so quickly run to people who really don't have all the answers, and we forget to go to the One who does.

Lesson #2 - Sorrow in the Christian life only lasts a little while. **16:20-22**

The very event that produced the sorrow is the very event that will produce joy. The death of Christ brought sorrow to the disciples, but it is the death of Christ that the disciples will eventually say brought forth joy in their souls. They will later see and understand, Jesus died for them, and through faith in Him, we are forgiven and free!

Sorrow in the Christian life only lasts a little while. God is in the business of turning sorrow into joy. The Christian's sorrow is only temporary. According to Jesus, it is only a little while.

Lesson #3 - The Christian can ask God for joy. **16:23-24**

Before Jesus became a man, prayer was not in His name. Prayer in the Old Testament was based on (1) the character of God and (2) the covenants that He had made with men.

It was not until the upper room discourse of John 13-17 that Jesus introduced an entirely new basis for prayer. The basis of prayer in the New Testament, Grace Age, Church Age would be the believer's position and privilege in Christ. The believer's connection to Christ allows for access to God in prayer. Proper prayer is based on a believer's connection to God through faith in the Person and work of Jesus.

I'll propose to you today, in light of the subject at hand, that when life is hard, you have the opportunity to ask God for joy. Have you ever asked God to give you joy?

Lesson #4 - Believers need to realize their complete access to God the Father. **16:25-28**

Believers get to pray directly to the Father, because we have believed in Jesus. If you have believed in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, then you have God the Father listening to your prayers. If you have believed in Jesus for eternal life, then you need to realize that God loves you. His affection is towards you. And if you love Jesus enough to obey Him, then God's love will be shown on you in ways you can't imagine.

According to verse 28, the one we have our hope in is the one and only person who came to this world from the Father for a temporary amount of time and has left this world to go back home to be with His Father. Jesus has come forth from the Father like the Spirit of God comes forth from God. In other words, Jesus came into this world to reveal the Father to the world. Jesus has let the world see God, because Jesus is God.

Lesson #5 - Christians need to remember that Jesus is trustworthy. **16:29-32**

Jesus knows all things. That is an attribute of God. It's called the omniscience of God. God knows all things. His knowledge is without limit. Psalm 147:5 - His understanding is beyond measure. Only God is all knowing, and Jesus knows all things. That is why they believed that Jesus came from God, because His knowledge was equivalent to the knowledge of God.

Then, Jesus went on to accurately predict the future which would later strengthen the disciples' faith in Him even more. They would scatter the moment that Jesus would be arrested later that night. They will leave Him alone, but the Father would be with Him.

I really think John was moved but the Spirit to write these words to ensure to us readers that Jesus is trustworthy. He knows all things. He tells the truth at all times. He knows the future. Jesus knows your future. He knows what you need even when you don't know you need it yet. I really think John would tell us if he were here today, "you really can trust Jesus. His word is sure. You can take His promises to the bank. He will not fail."

Lesson #6 - Christians can ask God for peace. **16:33**

If you are a part of this world, you will have tribulation. You will have pressure from the outside coming in on you. You will find pain, sorrow, affliction, trouble, and anguish. You will have all of that and on top of it all, you won't have peace. But only in Christ can you have peace in midst of pain that comes your way in life.

Have you ever asked God for peace and then given Him time to heal you?

Lesson #7 - The believer must take courage in the One who overcame the world. **16:33; 1 John 5:4-5**

Jesus has conquered the world. He has come out of this world victorious. He proved to this world that there is life beyond this world. There is life eternal.

They say no one ever makes it out of this world alive, but Jesus did. Jesus prevailed against the world. He has life beyond what this world offers, and did you know that He offers you life beyond what this world offers?

1 John 5:4-5 - *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

John 6:47 - *Truly, truly I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

1 John 5:13 - *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

JESUS HAS TAUGHT HOW TO HAVE HOPE WHEN LIFE GETS HARD.