

# ☑ The Hope of Our Calling

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## The Hope of Our Calling

### I. What Does the Bible Mean By Hope?

#### 1. Natural Hope

- A Desire or anticipation for something to be true
- A Desire accompanied an expectation or fulfilment or success
  - *I hope I will get a pay rise*
  - *I hope it will be a fine day*
  - *I hope to get into university*

#### 2. Bible Hope

- Biblical hope is not just optimism or wishful thinking
- It is a confident, assured expectation that something will happen based on the character and promise of God
- **Hebrew:**
  - OT Hebrew: *Tiqvah* (תִּקְוָה) – literally “cord” or “expectation,”
  - It symbolises **something that we hold onto** (Josh. 2:18).
- **Greek:**
  - NT Greek: *elpis* means confident expectation of good, especially regarding the future
    - Hope in the Bible is always forward-looking and eternal and based upon the promises of God

#### 3. What is the meaning of Biblical Hope?

- The New Testament describes the believer’s Hope closely connected to

##### 1. A Person

- Col 1:27 *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***
- Col 1:28 *Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*
  - Our Hope is centered in Christ, His return and His Glory being revealed in us
  - The presence of the Holy Spirit within us is the “earnest” or deposit of what is reserved ahead for us (Eph.1:13-14)

##### 2. A Future Event

- Tit 2:12 *teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,*
- Tit 2:13 *looking for the **blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God*

and Savior Jesus Christ,

- The “blessed hope” refers to a Future event, the return of Jesus and what will happen at that event:  
The First Resurrection and Reward of faithful followers of Christ

### 3. **A Future Prize or Reward to be Won**

- Rom 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
- Rom 2:6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":  
Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by **patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;**
  - This refers to the transformation and glory which will be revealed in us at the Coming of Christ

#### ○ **Note:**

- Heb 6:19 This **hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.**
- **The Revelation of Biblical Hope is a deep source of**
  1. **Perseverance**
    - ◆ An “Anchor for the soul” of every believer
  2. **A Motivation**
    - ◆ Seeking maturity. (Col.1:28)
    - ◆ Godly Living. (Tit.2:12)
    - ◆ Perseverance in doing good (Rom.2:7)

## II. **How is Bible Hope is Connected to our Calling?**

### 1. **Where is Our Hope?**

- **It is Reserved in Heaven for us**
- Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;  
Col 1:5 because of **the hope which is laid up for you in heaven,** of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,
  - “Laid up”....apokeimai....to lay up in store, to reserve for someone, to be appointed for someone
  - The hope the Bible refers to is reserved by God in heaven for us and awaiting the time we qualify to receive it

### 2. **How are Hope and Calling Connected?**

- Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may **give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him,  
Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may **know what is the hope of His calling,** what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,  
Eph 1:19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
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- **What is meant by “His Calling?”**
- “Calling”.....*Klesis*....means an invitation to participate in something
- **In Paul’s writings the word “Calling” does not refer just to being being saved.**
  - “Calling” refers to an **Invitation** from God (His Calling),to share in something eternal and glorious
    - We are invited to receive Christ as our Saviour
    - We are also invited to participate in His Calling to participate in His Coming Kingdom
  - “Calling” refers to a **Prize to be won**
    - Php 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the **prize of the high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.*
    - Php 3:15 *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*
    - The calling of God is called **The High Calling of God** in Christ or the upward or heavenly calling of God
    - It is a prize so great it deserves us totally engaging our attention and focus upon it
    - ‘Prize’.....*brabeion*.....*an award given to the victor in the public games, victor’s crown*
    - This calling is a prize to be won. The prize is not given for participating but for winning
    - Paul describes this high calling as the “mark” or the end goal which he keeps his eyes fixed upon and pursues with all his strength
  - “Calling” refers to something we must **Qualify for**
    - 2Th 1:11 *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our **God would count you worthy of this calling**, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:*
    - “Count you worthy” means to to judge and consider that you have conducted your life in a manner that is deserving of merit
    - If Paul prays that God will count them worthy, then there is a distinct possibility some believers will not live a life that qualifies for this calling
- 3. How can we Know the Hope of our Calling?**
- **By Revelation!**
- **We need the Holy Spirit to give us a Personal Revelation of the Hope of our Calling**
  - Paul is praying for the Ephesian believers
  - He is praying they will be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation
    - “Revelation”....*apokalupsis*....*to take the cover off and make known things previously unknown*
  - He is praying for the eyes of their understanding to be enlightened
    - “Enlightened”....*photizo*....*to shine rays of light upon , make evident, make someone see*
- **This truth is not naturally understood. It requires revelation by God**
  - This is not just “Bible teaching”, “Information” or “Head Knowledge”
  - This requires Revelation to our heart
  - Without revelation we will never see or understand or be changed by the Hope

### III. **What is The Hope of Our Calling?**

- **When Paul is talking about the Hope of our Calling he is referring to four distinct experiences.**
  - **These are all different descriptions of the same Hope**
- **Paul longs for believers to grasp:**
  - This hope is not automatic
  - It is a future reality for those who walk faithfully (1 John 3:3; Luke 21:36)

#### 1. **Receiving The Prize (Eternal Reward)**

- *Php 3:14* I press toward the mark for the **prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**
- *1Co 9:24* Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but **one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.**  
*1Co 9:25* And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but **we for an imperishable crown.**
- *Rev 22:12* "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."
  - Our calling is an invitation to win the Prize that is set before us
  - Our Hope is receiving the prize, receiving eternal reward
- **Eternal Reward is the Hope of Our Calling, The High Calling of God**

#### 2. **Raised Up from the Dead in The First Resurrection**

- **The First Resurrection (Rev. 20:4–6) is the fulfilment of the believer's hope**
- *Rev 20:4* And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.  
*Rev 20:5* But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.  
*Rev 20:6* Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
- *Php 3:10* that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,  
*Php 3:11* if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.  
*Php 3:12* Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.  
*Php 3:13* Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,  
*Php 3:14* I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ

Jesus.

Php 3:15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise,

- **It is the resurrection of the righteous and overcoming believers at Christ's return.**
  - Paul speaks of it as something to attain:
- **Why Does Paul "Hope to Attain" This Promise?**
  - "...that I may attain to the resurrection of the dead" (Phil. 3:11)
  - (Greek: exanastasin – a selective "out-resurrection" from among the dead.)
- **This language indicates:**
  - **A selective resurrection, distinct from the general resurrection.**
  - **A resurrection rewarded to the faithful, not automatically granted to all believers.**
- **So why does Paul "hope" for it?**
  - It is Not because he doubts God's promise or power.
  - He reveals he has **not yet attained it** and it is **not automatic**
  - The First Resurrection and participating in it is a Hope, a Glorious Hope
  - It is a Prize that he presses forward to pursue passionately
  - He considers this prize so valuable all his achievements mean little to him
  - He understands that attaining to this resurrection is conditional
    - Faithful endurance,
    - Obedience, and
    - Pursuit...."pressing on toward the prize" (Phil. 3:12–14).
- **This is Not the general resurrection, but a reward-based resurrection of glory and rulership.**
- The resurrection of our physical body is part of our great Hope ((Rom.8:23-25)
- **The First Resurrection is the Hope of Our Calling, the High Calling of God**

### 3. **Sharing in The Glory of Christ**

- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,  
Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.  
Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**  
Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
- Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory.**  
Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
- 2Th 1:10 when He comes, in that Day, **to be glorified in His saints** and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.  
2Th 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our **God would count you**

*worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,*

- **What will This Glory look like?**
  - The Glory is the very nature and majesty of the resurrected Jesus
  - It will be a radiant resurrected body like Christ (Phil.3:21, Matt.17:2)
  - Immortality and Incorruption (1Cor.15:42-44)
  - Clothed with Glory and Honour (Rom.2:6-7)
  
- **Will there be Different Realms of Glory?**
  - *1 Cor. 15:41–42 – “There is one glory of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead.”*
  - **Yes. There will be different realms of Glory.**
  - **Glory is a reward.**
    - There are Great and Least in the coming Kingdom (Mat.5:19)
    - Not all believers will shine equally in His Coming Kingdom
    - There will be differing degrees of Glory that will be identifiable
    - Degrees of Glory will be based on faithfulness, service, endurance and love for His appearing
  
- **When will this take place?**
- **At the First Resurrection, when Christ returns:**
  - *Col. 3:4 – “When Christ who is our life appears, then **you also will appear with Him in glory.**”*
  - *1 Peter 5:4 – “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will **receive the crown of glory.**”*
  - *1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.***
- It begins at His coming and is fully expressed during the Millennial reign.
  
- **Is this Automatic to all believers or is this a Prize to win?**
  - *Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His **wife has made herself ready.***  
*Rev 19:8 And to her it was granted to be **arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.***
  - **“Bright” ....lampos....radiant, magnificent, brilliant like a lamp**
    - No! It is not automatic.
    - It is a Prize to be won! (Phil.3:14)
    - It is our responsibility to make ourselves ready
    - Our righteous acts form the fabric of the garments of glory
- **Receiving the Glory of God is the Hope of Our Calling ...The High Calling of God**
  
- 4. **Receiving Responsibility and Authority to Reign with Christ**
  - *Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall*

- reign with Him a thousand years.*
- 2Ti 2:12 *If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.*
  - Rev 3:21 *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*
  - Luk 19:17 *And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'*
    - This is our season of faithful serving Christ and living a life that Honours Him
    - This is our apprenticeship and qualification for the Coming Kingdom
    - In the Coming Kingdom, faithful believers in this age will be rewarded with realms of responsibility and Authority expanding the Kingdom of Christ
  - **Ruling and reigning with Christ is the Hope of Our Calling ...The High Calling of God**

#### IV. **Summary: What is the “Hope of Our Calling”?**

- The Glorious Hope of every Believer:
  - To be raised in the First Resurrection
  - To be rewarded with Glory and Honour
  - To Share responsibility and rulership in the coming Kingdom
  - To Fulfil the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus

#### IV. **What is Required of Us to Qualify?**

- **The Hope of our calling is a most Powerful Personal Motivation:**
  - 1Jn 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*
  - 1Jn 3:3 *And **everyone** who has this hope in Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure.***
- **This Great Calling to Resurrection, Glory and Eternal Reward is a Call to:**
  1. Faithful Endurance (2Tim.2:12)
  2. Personal Purity and Holiness. (1Jn3.3)
  3. Perseverance in Doing Good. (Rom.2:7)
  4. Overcoming Temptation and Trials. (Rev.2-3)
  5. Love For Christ’s Appearing. (2Tim.4:8)
  6. Obedience. (Mt.7:21)

#### V. **Note: Why Is the Church Today Unaware of This Hope?**

- **Several reasons:**
  1. Shallow Gospel message focused on:

- Going to heaven and not sharing Christ's reign,
- Escape rather than reward.

## 2. Lack of Revelation of of Resurrection and Reward.

## 3. Rapture Focus:

- Popular pretribulational rapture views often bypass the First Resurrection and conditional reward

## 4. Distraction:

- The church has become earth-focused, not kingdom-focused.

## 5. Seeker Friendly and Hyper-grace movements

## Scriptures on Hope

Act 24:15 *I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that **there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.***

Act 26:6 *And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.*

Act 26:7 *To **this promise** our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, **hope to attain.** For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.*

Act 26:8 *Why should it be thought incredible by you that **God raises the dead?***

Act 28:20 *For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, **because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**"*

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Rom 5:2 *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

Rom 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.***

Rom 8:24 *For we were **saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why*

does one still hope for what he sees?

Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we **eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know **what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in **one hope of your calling;**

Col 1:4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Col 1:5 because of the **hope which is laid up for you in heaven,** of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Col 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

1Th 5:8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a **helmet the hope of salvation.**

Tit 1:2 in **hope of eternal life** which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Tit 3:7 that having been justified by His grace we should become **heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

Heb 3:5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,

Heb 3:6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are **if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.**

Heb 6:11 And we desire that each one of you show the **same diligence to the full assurance of hope** until the end,

Heb 6:12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb 6:19 **This hope we have as an anchor of the soul,** both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Heb 6:20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His

*abundant mercy has begotten us again to a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,***

*1Pe 1:4 **to an inheritance** incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you,*

*1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a **reason for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear;*

*1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.***

*1Jn 3:3 And **everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.***