

LIVING IN A HOUSE OF HOPE
Dr. Mike Chapman

Humans can live about forty days without food...three days without water, and up to eight minutes without air. But how long can a person live without hope?

Hope is the opposite of despair. Despair is a sense that things won't change for the better, and nothing I do will make a difference. Millions of people around the world live in despair.

Here is the question for us today? Can we live in hope? How do we live the life that Paul described in 2 Corinthians 4:8, "We are hard pressed on all sides but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not abandoned, knocked down but not destroyed."

Using the metaphor of a house, I would like to offer you three key principles that enable us to live in hope in the middle of a world like ours.

THE FOUNDATION

Like a house, the security of our lives depend on the foundation.

The foundation of our hope is **theological**.

Do I believe in the sovereignty of God?

The supremacy of God

The rulership of God over all things

The involvement of God in all the affairs of history and destiny.

Job 42:2, *I know that you can do everything and that your plans are unstoppable.* GW

Ephesians 1:11 he is the One who makes everything agree with what he decides and wants. NCV

Romans 8:28, *We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God—those whom he has called according to his plan.* GW

THE LIVING SPACE

The rooms of the house represent the seasons of our lives.

Reflective Prayer is a vital part of living a life of hope.

Psalm 42:1-7, *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When may I come to see God's face? My tears are my food day and night. People ask me all day long, "Where is your God?" I will remember these things as I pour out my soul: how I used to walk with the crowd and lead it in a procession to God's house. I sang songs of joy and thanksgiving while crowds of people celebrated a festival. Why are you discouraged, my soul? Why are you so restless? Put your hope in God, because I will still praise him. He is my savior and my God. My soul is discouraged. That is why I will remember you.* GW

THE ROOF OVER OUR HEAD

There is no substitute for the foundation of your “house,” and the “rooms” provide faith-building support to our lives.

But when the storm is raging, you must have a “roof”-- a shelter that protects it all!

Ephesians 6:13, You need to put on God's full armor. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. GW

Ephesians 3:18, Pray in the Spirit at all times.

The roof of your house is **Spirit-assisted** prayer.

Romans 8:26-27, The moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves...and keeps us present before God. Msg