



## God With Us: HOPE

Isaiah 41:10, Colossians 1:27

### Summary:

The current state of the world, while maybe worse than we've known it, is what it has always been. Sinful, fallen and contrary to all that God desires! What is your current state? Is your life filled with fear, hate, sorrow and conflict? What is God's desired future for you? Do you know it is a life filled with hope, love, joy and peace? What action steps are necessary to step into God's desired future for you? Trust the Lord with all your heart. Confess your sins. Surrender to Jesus. The greatest hope of all is that God is with you. Jesus came to give you hope. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

*Fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*  
Isaiah 41:10

### CURRENT STATE

Fear ~ Hate ~ Sorrow ~ Conflict

### DESIRED FUTURE

Hope ~ Love ~ Joy ~ Peace

"At a deeper level, with cynicism, fatigue, and burnout running at all-time highs, people are looking for hope—a message that is the opposite of the despair that has become the daily diet of almost everyone."

Carey Nieuwhof

*My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle and come to their end without hope.*  
Job 7:6

*5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.' 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.*

Genesis 6:5-9

**KEY** - You can find favor with God! Noah did! Noah walked with God! You can too!

That's the good news. The bad news is that the world will get worse until the end.

You and I are not going to change the current state of the world. But thanks be to God, Jesus' return will. The scripture teaches that the result of sin will be that the world will continue to spiral out of control until the end. Read Matthew 24.

*6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.*

*9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

Matthew 24:6-14

If you have hope, not in yourself but in the Lord to save you, then keep on hoping and lead others to the hope you have in Jesus.

*In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.*

Ephesians 2:12 NLT

## **DESIRED FUTURE**

FEAR is replaced by HOPE

Hope is a reoccurring theme throughout the Bible.

If you look closely at the major characters of the Bible and their stories, you will find hope as a reoccurring theme. Sometimes the absence of hope but more often a story of abundant hope.

These men and women had hope, not in themselves or their abilities or resources but in God Himself. Stories memorialized through faith in the creator of all things. Stories of hope against great odds. These stories can be your story because it is God's story and He makes it available to you in Jesus!

Who do you know who needs hope? Is it you? Someone you love?

## **ACTION STEPS**

*Remember that you were at [one] 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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Ephesians 2:12-13

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

10 fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you, Isaiah 41:10  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

13 For I, the LORD your God,  
hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,  
I am the one who helps you." Isaiah 41:13

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:23

Trust the Lord with all your heart. Confess your sins. Surrender to Jesus.  
The greatest hope of all is that God is with us.  
Jesus came to give us hope. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.  
Jesus, Only Jesus, God With Us!

*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*  
Colossians 1:27

## **Life Application**

1. Share your hope story.
2. Describe your current state. More fearful or more hopeful?
3. God desires for you to be hopeful. What is keeping you/others from God's desired future?
4. What challenges are you facing that keep you from hope?
5. If you need hope, where/how can you find the strength to hope?
6. What source of hope do you trust?
7. How can you share the hope you have with others?
8. Pray that those you know will draw strength from the hope you have.