



Candlewood Church



Hope Moves Out

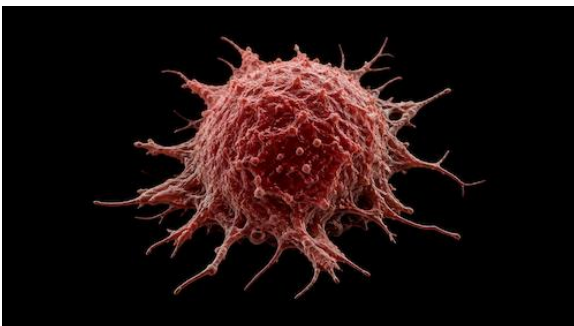
May 3, 2026

Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – Hope fulfilled, an expectation realized, a dream come true is **a tree teeming with life**. Hope is portable, transferable and meant to be shared with others.

Scripture Focus – Hope deferred makes the heart sick, **but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life. Proverbs 13:12 NLT**

Hope isn't just felt; it can be **contagious**. People **spot it before they ever hear it** and **trust it when it's lived out in someone else**. God heals us, not just to make us whole, but to make us helpful. Turns out, hope was never meant to be a solo endeavor... it's more of a community project. **Wouldn't you love to be a part of someone experiencing hope?**



Cancer is one of the most tragic pictures of betrayal in the human body. It is not usually an outside invader. It begins as one of the body's own cells.

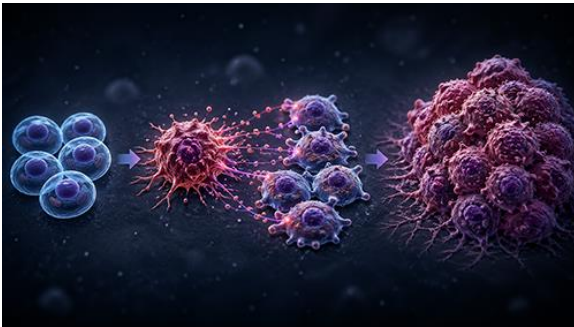
Because cancer is deeply personal for many people, I want to use this illustration carefully, because many of us have been personally touched by cancer. **I am not making a medical claim**, I'm using it as a picture, a metaphor of how something inside a body can destroy the body from within.

With Cancer something goes terribly wrong.

The cancer cell stops listening.

It stops serving the body.

It starts serving itself.



And then it does something even more destructive.

- It begins to reshape the environment around it.
- It hides from the immune system.
- It sends signals.
- It syphons resources.
- It creates a little kingdom of self-preservation inside a body it was meant to serve.
- Finally, it unifies with other terrorist cells to create something far more diabolical than a single rebellious cell – **it turns into a rebellious community of cells called a malignancy**. “Malignancy refers to the presence of cancerous cells that can spread to other parts of the body and invade nearby tissues. It is characterized by uncontrolled growth and the ability to metastasize, distinguishing it from benign tumors, which do not spread.”

I believe that cancer is an object lesson for sin. This is exactly what sin does.

But, more than that...

- **This is what despair does.**
- **This is what bitterness does.**
- **That is what hopelessness does.**

It turns us inward until we begin living in survival mode, even if it damages the people around us.



But hope in Jesus does the opposite.

- Hope is not self-preservation.
- Hope is resurrection life.
- Hope turns us outward.
- Hope says, 'The **comfort God gave me is not just for me. The mercy God gave me is not just for me. The restoration God gave me is not just for me.**

Cancer spreads death by turning the body against itself.



But hope spreads life by turning wounded people back toward love, truth, courage, and mission. In the medical community, they are working to convert cancerous cells back into healthy ones. It's called cancer reversion.

Paul says God comforts us so we can comfort others.

Hope is portable. Hope is transferable. Hope moves out.

Let's look at how the Biblical authors write about why and how our hope should be shared – how it moves out!

Hope Moves Out

UNSTOPPABLE HOPE – We have talked about hope for four Sundays:

- Hope Walked Out on Easter & the week after. Pastor Larry brought us Hope That Secures. And, last week Hope Heals What Hurts.
- We are formed by the person of Jesus who is our Hope.
- **This last Sunday we look at Hope Moves Out.**

Several New Testament authors focus on hope that is received and given to others. We'll look at two Apostles who focus on what hope does through us.

The Apostle Paul writing from Corinth AD 57-58.



- **Romans 5:3-5 ESV – Paul lays the groundwork of a methodology of how hope comes about into our lives!**
 - **Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**
 - **Believers are bilingual; we speak suffering and hope.**
 - Paul inserts that this kind of hope does not "kataischuno" shame, does not disgrace us. **Why would he say that?**
 - **God's hope will not embarrass us, expose us as fools, or abandon us.**
 - **Why? Because hope always risks disappointment!**
 - **It sounds strange because suffering usually threatens hope. Doesn't it? Paul says, in Christ, suffering can actually produce hope.**
 - **Suffering can test what we are standing on – IF we'll allow it.**
 - **People often carry hope that have shamed them:**
 - **relationships that collapsed**
 - **dreams that died**
 - **promises that failed**
 - **systems that betrayed them**
 - **success that still left them empty**
 - **Christian hope is different.**

The hope we give away is not “everything will work out the way we want.”

The hope we give away is “God’s love will not fail us, even in suffering.”

The Apostle Paul writing from Macedonia in AD 55.



- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT**

- All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.
- Paul uses the Greek word “[Parakaleó](#)” here for the word “comfort” - To call to one's side. To exhort, encourage, comfort and urge.
- This is the word used to describe the [Holy Spirit](#).

- **2 Corinthians 5:16–20 NLT New creation to Reconciliation to Ambassadors**
So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

- So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! 2 Corinthians 5:16 NLT (**Paul writes, we stopped “eidó” seeing them in their “sarx”, their carnal nature, merely of human origin.**)

The Apostle Peter writing his letter to the Churches from Babylon (Rome). Peter puts it like this. As a believer, living and experiencing Jesus and the hope that He brings into our lives, people will notice and they will ask questions! Questions

like a neighbor who lost his wife to a brain embolism, asked our dear Inez Mallard, “how did you get through the awful loss of your husband?” Inez said, “I have people in my church that pray for me.”



Peter writing from Rome to the Church

- **1 Peter 3:15–16 NLT** When someone asks about **your hope**.
 - **Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.**
 - Give a defense, an answer, a “a *thought-out response* to adequately address the issue(s) that is raised.”
 - Concerning the “elpis:” **Hope, expectation that is in you.**
 - Speak Hope
 - for the hope that is in you when God showed up.
 - Verbalized hope through your own story.
 - No one argues your experience with God! **When hope shows up in your most desperate times and pulls you up and out into the light of day – REMEMBER IT. Write it down. Practice sharing it.**

Hope moves out when you’re ready to name why you have it.

REFLECTIONS

- Sin spreads like cancer but hope spreads like life.
- Cancer turns the body against itself; hope turns our own body, and the body of Christ, back toward healing.
- Hope is Christ’s life in us moving toward someone else’s wound.
- The hope God gives us is not meant to end with us.
- Healed people become hope brokers.

APPLICATION

- **Cancer is a tragic picture of life turning against the body. Because of sin, life often throws us a curve like that.**
Biblical hope is the opposite: life in Christ restores a person so they can strengthen the body again. How can I lift people with encouragement rather than with discouraging with criticism?
 - **Hopelessness turns people inward.** How can I bring the hope Christ has given to me help others?
 - **People see hope before they hear it.** How can I let my light of hope shine bright?
-

Prayer commitment:

- **TOUCH YOUR EYES** - I will **check my eyes** to see others as Christ sees me.
- **HAND OVER HEART** - I will **check my heart** to feel the mercy towards others as Christ extended mercy to me.
- **TOUCH YOUR MOUTH** - I will **check my mouth** to speak encouragement that the Holy Spirit has spoken to me.
- **RAISE YOUR HEAD TO HEAVEN** - I will **make a commitment today** to allow hope to move out committing to become a hope ambassador to others.

“Hope was never meant to stay just in us; it was meant to move through us.”

Prayer of benediction:

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NLT

SCRIPTURES

Romans 5:3-5 ESV

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us

2 Corinthians 5:16–20 NLT

So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means

that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

1 Peter 3:15–16 NLT

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.



DIG DEEPER NOTES



Cancer is a terrorist and betrays our own body.

1. "Cancer is a betrayal of the body" — TRUE

What is actually happening:

- Cancer cells are **your own cells**
- They acquire **mutations in DNA**
- These mutations cause them to:
 - ignore normal growth controls
 - stop cooperating with the body
 - prioritize their own survival and replication

In plain language:

A healthy cell serves the body

A cancer cell serves itself

Scientifically supported concept:

- Loss of "growth regulation"
- Loss of "apoptosis" (programmed cell death)
- Self-sufficiency in growth signals

2. "Cancer cells go rogue" — TRUE

What causes it:

- DNA mutations (random, environmental, inherited)
- Breakdown of regulatory systems

Result:

- Cells no longer respond to:
 - stop signals
 - death signals
 - organizational structure

So:

“What makes a cancer cell go rogue?”

Accumulated genetic mutations that remove normal controls.

3. “Cancer influences other cells to join it” — TRUE

This is where your analogy needs tightening.

What is TRUE:

Cancer cells **do influence other cells**, but not by “converting” them into cancer.

They:

- release **chemical signals (cytokines, growth factors)**
- recruit **blood vessels** (angiogenesis)
- manipulate nearby cells (immune cells, fibroblasts)

What is NOT true:

- Cancer does **not turn healthy cells into cancer cells directly**
- Each cancer cell must arise from its **own mutation**

✓ Fact:

“Cancer cells corrupt the environment around it and pulls other cells into supporting its growth”

4. “Cancer evades the immune system” — TRUE

Cancer cells can:

- disguise themselves as normal
- suppress immune response
- avoid detection
- exhaust immune cells

This is the basis of:

- modern immunotherapy treatments
-

5. “Cancer spreads” — TRUE (Metastasis)

- Cancer cells can break away
 - travel through blood/lymph
 - establish new tumors
-

“Cancer is not an outside invader—it’s a cell that forgot who it was created to serve.”

- It stops serving the body
- It begins serving itself
- It grows at the expense of everything around it

“Cancer **corrupts the environment around it**, pulling other cells into supporting its destruction.”

- recruits blood supply
- manipulates nearby cells
- weakens defenses

“It doesn’t just grow—it reorganizes everything around it for its own survival.”

“Hope does the opposite.”

- **Cancer isolates → Hope connects**
 - **Cancer consumes → Hope restores**
 - **Cancer deceives → Hope reveals truth**
 - **Cancer spreads destruction → Hope spreads life**
-

“Sin spreads like cancer—but hope spreads like life.”

Biblical Tie-In

→ 2 Corinthians 5:17

“New creation”

→ 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

“Comfort... so we can comfort others”

→ Romans 5:5

“Hope does not disappoint”

“Cancer is a cell that turns inward and destroys the body.
Hope is a life that turns outward and restores the body.”

Bottom Line

Statement	Accuracy
Cancer is a betrayal	✓ Conceptually true
Cancer goes rogue	✓ True
Cancer corrupts its environment	✓ True
Cancer evades immune system	✓ True

Cancer Reversal

As a **metaphor**, biblical hope can be framed as a kind of **“cancer reversion” process**.

Cancer reversion tries to turn rogue cells away from destructive behavior.

Biblical hope does something spiritually similar: it turns wounded people away from despair, isolation, and self-protection, and restores them toward life, love, mission, and wholeness.

What “Cancer Reversion” Means Medically

In cancer biology, “reversion” generally refers to efforts or observations where malignant cells are pushed toward a less malignant, more normal-like, or differentiated state. This is an emerging and complex research area, not a simple mainstream cure. Recent reviews describe cancer reversion as a shift from a malignant phenotype toward a benign or suppressed malignant state, often through changes in cellular programming or tumor environment. ([PMC](#))

A related, better-established idea is **differentiation therapy**, where treatment encourages immature or abnormal cancer cells to mature, stop proliferating uncontrollably, or undergo cell death. Reviews describe this as a therapy aimed at modifying cancer cell differentiation rather than only killing cells directly. ([ScienceDirect](#))

Hope as Spiritual Reversion

Cancer says:

“I will live for myself, even if it costs the body.”

Biblical hope says:

“Because Christ lives in me, I can live for the healing of the body.”

Hope Moves Out.

Hope does not just make us feel better. Hope turns us outward. It changes what we spread.

Reversal

Cancer:

- turns inward
- consumes
- hides
- recruits support for destruction
- damages the body

Hope in Christ:

- Resolves internally, then
- turns outward
- restores
- reveals truth
- strengthens others
- builds up the body

Cancer is life turned inward until it destroys the body. Hope is realized in our own life then turned outward helping to restore others in the body of Christ.

Facts

Cancer cells can manipulate the **tumor microenvironment**—the surrounding cells, immune signals, blood vessels, and tissue structures—to support tumor growth and survival. Cancer can also evade immune detection, and modern immunotherapies work by helping the immune system recognize and fight cancer more effectively. ([Cancer.gov](#))

“Cancer does not just damage the body. **It corrupts the environment** around it and pressures surrounding systems to support its survival.”

“Hope does the opposite. Hope changes the environment. It brings truth where lies have spread, courage where fear has spread, comfort where grief has spread, and life where despair has spread.”

New Testament Texts That Fit the “Hope Reversion” Idea

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

God comforts us “so that we can comfort those in any trouble.”

That is hope becoming transferable.

God does not only heal you from pain; He makes you a carrier of healing for someone else’s pain.

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace... so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” **Biblical hope is not meant to be contained. It overflows.**

1 Peter 3:15

“Always be prepared to give an answer... for the hope that is in you.” Hope is internal, but it must become explainable and shareable.

Colossians 1:27

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Hope is not positive thinking. Hope is the presence of Christ in us.

Ephesians 4:15–16

The body grows as each part does its work. In a sick body, parts turn against the whole. In Christ’s body, every part strengthens the whole.

- **Sin spreads like cancer but hope spreads like life.**
 - **Cancer turns the body against itself; hope turns the body back toward healing.**
 - **Hope is Christ’s life in us moving toward someone else’s wound.**
 - **The hope God gives us is not meant to end with us.**
 - **Healed people become hope brokers.**
-

Hope becomes a spiritual reversal

Biblical hope works **like a spiritual reversal process** in people who have been wounded, discouraged, isolated, or inwardly turned by pain—and when that hope is shared, it strengthens the whole body of Christ.

Hopelessness turns people inward.

Hope in Christ turns people outward.

Cancer is a tragic picture of life turning against the body.

Biblical hope is the opposite: life in Christ restoring a person so they can strengthen the body again.

The Body of Christ Connection

- **1 Corinthians 12:25–26**

Paul says the members of the body should have “the same care for one another,” and “if one member suffers, all suffer together.”

That means individual pain is never purely individual inside the Church. When one person is wounded, the body feels it.

- **Ephesians 4:15–16**

Paul says the body grows as “each part is working properly.”
So when hope restores one wounded part, it affects the whole body.

- **2 Corinthians 1:3–4**

God comforts us “so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction.”
That is your clearest “hope becomes transferable” passage.

- **Romans 15:13**

Paul prays that believers would “overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
That is not contained hope. That is hope spilling over.

- **Hope reverses the direction of pain.**
- **Hopelessness turns wounds inward; hope turns healing outward.**
- **The hope God gives you is not meant to end with you.**
- **Healed people become hope carriers.**
- **Hope is portable because Christ lives in us. Hope is transferable because the Spirit works through us.**
- **When hope moves out, the body gets stronger.**

Biblical hope does not just heal the person who receives it; it strengthens the body when that person gives it away.



Hope Moving Out Scriptures

Titus 2:10–13

“...so that in every way they will make the teaching... attractive.”

- Conduct adorns the gospel
- Future hope (“blessed hope”) fuels present behavior

Hope becomes credible when it’s livable.

Hebrews 10:23–25

“Hold unswervingly... and let us consider how to stir up one another...”

- Hope is maintained together
- Intentional encouragement
- Give Hope Through Encouragement

Hope is a community project.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

“Encourage one another and build each other up.”

- Ongoing command, not occasional

Someone’s hope rises when we speak hope.

Carry Hope into Suffering (Comfort Others)

2 Corinthians 1:3–4

“...comforts us... so that we can comfort those in any trouble...”

- Your received comfort becomes someone else's lifeline

God heals you in a way that positions you to help others heal.

Romans 15:1–2

“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak...”

- Strength is for others' upbuilding

Mature hope shoulders other people's weight.

1 Timothy 6:17–19

“...be rich in good deeds... generous... storing up treasure... so they may take hold of life.”

- Tangible Hope (Generosity & Good Works)
- Generosity becomes a visible sign of hope

Hope isn't just experienced; it is spoken and shared.

Hebrews 13:16

“Do not neglect to do good and to share...”

- Practical good = hope in action

Small acts can carry big hope.

Matthew 28:18–20

“Go and make disciples...”

- **Commissioned to Bring Hope**
- The mission itself is a hope-delivery system

Hope moves out when the Church moves out.

Acts 1:8

“You will be my witnesses...”

- Power of the Spirit for outward witness

The Spirit empowers you to export hope.

Colossians 1:27

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

- The Content of What We Give
- We don't give ideas—we point people to a Person

You don't give hope *from you*—you give Jesus to them.

Romans 15:13

“...so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- A Prayer That Drives Outward Hope
- Not just filled—overflowing
- Overflow implies spillover to others

Hope that fills you is meant to flow through you.



Several New Testament authors write about giving hope to others

They treat hope as something we **receive from Christ** and then **carry outward to others** through witness, encouragement, endurance, comfort, and love.

1. Paul — Hope overflows through the Spirit

- **Romans 15:13** is probably the clearest “hope moves out” verse:
- “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
- Paul does not picture hope as a private emotional possession. We are filled so that hope **overflows**.
- Other strong Pauline texts:
- **2 Corinthians 1:3–4**
God comforts us “so that we can comfort those in any trouble.” This is hope becoming transferable through testimony and presence.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**
Paul teaches resurrection hope, then says, “Therefore encourage one another with these words.” Hope becomes something we **speak into grief**.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18–20**
God reconciles us, then gives us “the ministry of reconciliation.” What God does in us becomes what God sends through us.
- **Colossians 1:27–28**
“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Paul immediately says he proclaims Christ, warning and teaching everyone. Hope in us becomes Christ proclaimed through us.

Big idea:

The hope God gives us is not meant to end with us; it is meant to overflow through us.

2. Peter — Hope must be explainable and visible

- **1 Peter 3:15** is one of the strongest outward-hope texts:
- “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.”
- Peter assumes hope should be visible enough that people notice it and ask about it.
- Other Peter texts:
- **1 Peter 1:3**
God gives us “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” This hope is not static; it is alive.
- **1 Peter 2:9**
We are called to “declare the praises” of the One who called us out of darkness. Hope becomes proclamation.
- **1 Peter 4:10**
Each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others. Received grace becomes distributed grace.

Big idea:

Hope lives in us, but it should become visible enough that others ask why.

3. The author of Hebrews — Hope is strengthened in community

Hebrews repeatedly treats hope as something we help one another hold onto.

- **Hebrews 10:23–25**
 - “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess... and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”
 - This is not individualistic hope. The author ties hope directly to gathering, encouraging, and stirring one another toward faithful action.
 - Other Hebrews texts:
- **Hebrews 6:18–19**

Hope is “an anchor for the soul.” Anchored people help steady others.
- **Hebrews 3:13**

“Encourage one another daily.” Encouragement is one of the ways hope resists hardening.

Big idea:

Hope is something we hold together, not merely something we hold alone.

4. Luke — Hope moves outward through witness

Luke does not always use the word “hope,” but his writings show hope becoming mission.

- **Luke 24:45–49**

After the resurrection, Jesus opens their minds to understand Scripture, then sends them as witnesses.
- **Acts 1:8**

“You will receive power... and you will be my witnesses...”
- The resurrection hope does not stay in the upper room. It moves outward: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
- **Acts 2:14–41**

Peter receives resurrection hope and then publicly gives it away through preaching.
- **Acts 16:25–34**

Paul and Silas carry hope into prison; their worship and witness lead to the jailer’s salvation.

Big idea:

Resurrection hope always becomes witness.

5. John — Life received becomes life shared

John emphasizes eternal life, love, witness, and fellowship.

- **John 20:21**
 - “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
 - The risen Jesus sends His people outward.
- **John 20:31**

John writes so that others may believe and have life in Jesus’ name. His Gospel itself is hope given away.
- **1 John 1:1–4**

John says they proclaim what they have seen and heard “so that you also may have fellowship with us.” Experienced life becomes shared life.

- **1 John 3:16–18**

Because Christ laid down His life for us, we lay down our lives for others—not just in words, but in action and truth.

Big idea:

What we have seen, heard, and received in Christ must become love and witness for others.

6. James — Hope becomes practical mercy

James does not emphasize the word “hope” as much as Paul and Peter, but he shows what outward hope looks like.

- **James 2:14–17**

Faith without practical care is dead. If someone lacks food or clothing, words alone are not enough.

- **James 5:13–16**

The suffering are prayed for, the sick are cared for, confession and prayer bring restoration.

Big idea:

Hope is not only spoken; it becomes tangible help.
