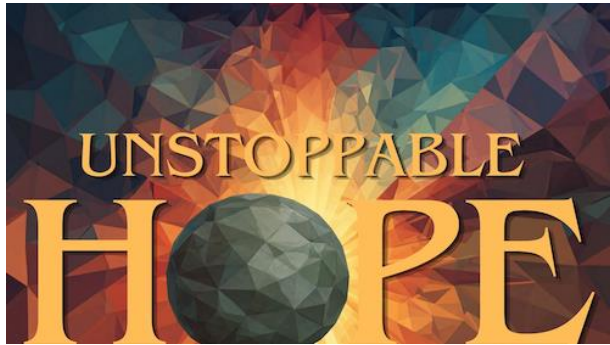




Candlewood Church



Hope Walked Out

April 5, 2026

Glenn Garvin

BIG IDEA – When Jesus walked out of that rock-hewn tomb – HOPE WALKED OUT for all of us.

Scripture Focus – Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45 NLT

Blurb: From the garden to the grave, it all spiraled and unraveled fast. Three years of building faith and trust; gone in those Zero Dark Thirty moments after the garden. Then Jesus was tortured. He Died. Buried. Sealed. Finished.

Or so they thought.

Because when Jesus walked out of that tomb,
Guess what walked out with him? HOPE!

Remember this scene from Raiders of the Lost Ark with Harrison Ford stepping out in faith to cross the invisible chasm?





Let's go back to the Resurrection Story for just a few minutes. Starting from Good Friday.

I don't think we can have a proper series on Unstoppable Hope unless we can clearly see how desperate life can be without it.



When Jesus died, hope seemed to die with Him.

From the arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, the closest followers of Jesus began a spiral down, down, down, to the **lowest depths of confusion, despair and hopeless frustration**. They could do nothing to stop what was happening.

Those Zero Dark Thirty (midnight to 6am) moments were beyond their control.

- Everything they had experienced over the previous three years evaporated before they teary eyes.
- Everything they had hoped for, everything they believed, everything they had given their entire heart and life to was gone – it was all entombed with **Jesus**. Their lives and futures were buried with him.

What began as a betrayal soon funneled into a several spontaneous mock trials.



Jesus faced six trials in total: three religious and three civil, all occurring in one night. The religious trials were illegally held because Jewish law forbade holding trials before sunrise. Jesus had no defense attorney. He was completely alone.

- **The first trial was before Annas, the former high priest** (John 18:12–14, 19–24).
- followed by a **trial before Caiaphas, the current high priest** (Matthew 26:57–68, Mark 14:53–65),
- and then **the Sanhedrin**. (Luke 22:66–71). Then Jesus was taken to three civil trials:
- **Pontius Pilate**, (John 18:28–38, Luke 23:1–5) then to
- **Herod Antipas**, (Luke 23:6–12) and finally
- **returned to Pilate**, (Matthew 27:11–26, John 18:39–19:16) **where he was sentenced to crucifixion.**

I was surprised that the guys supposed to be working for God, **determined to betray God and systematically worked against him** – literally working for the enemy in their lies and deceit. **These lines from the gospels are just so disturbing. This is what religion, a belief about God gets separated from who God really is according to His Word.** It distorts our judgement and is then applied within our own ridged systems of control.

John records the moments when it looked like Pilate was not going to go through with wrongly judging an innocent man.

And according to Tom Holland in his book, [**Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World**](#), justice was at the core of Roman government to maintain social order and uphold law and authority.

Even Pilate wanted to be fair!



“Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.” John 19:12 NLT

“It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!” “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. **“We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.” John 19:14-15 NLT**

Isn't that IDOLATRY?



And Matthew records this haunting quote from the crowd, “So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, **he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Matthew 27:24-25 ESV**

OH HOW PROPHETIC!

By 9:00 am Jesus was hung on a criminal's cross. I can't begin to describe the utter shock and disbelief of his family and friends. By 3:00 pm that day – it was over. Jesus was dead and buried before sundown.

When Jesus came back to life, conquering death, hell and the grave, **do you know what walked out of that tomb with him? HOPE.**

Because Biblical hope, true hope isn't a belief, a feeling or an idea – hope is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ.

Hope Walked Out (Resurrection Morning)

- **Luke 24:1–12, 36–49** — Luke's resurrection account when Jesus opens the Scriptures and connects the spiritual dots.



- As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. **Luke 24:4 NLT (In grief, nothing makes sense).**

Everyone was perplexed!



- Then **he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45 NLT (Life, love and relationships won't fully make sense until our mind is open to the Word of God).**



- **1 Corinthians 15:1–8, 12–26, 54–58** — The Apostle Paul's earliest summary of the gospel and the meaning of resurrection showed up in his first letter to the churches in Corinth.
- Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—**unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.** **1 Corinthians 15:1-2 NLT**

What a strange thing to write!

- Paul hits them hard with these truths:
 - If Christ has not been raised... your faith is "**kenos**" **void, empty, futile.** 15:14
 - And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is "**mataios**" – **useless, worthless, and you are still guilty** of your sins. 15:17
 - "**Believing in vain**" means **holding a faith that either isn't true, doesn't last, or doesn't change you—and therefore saves no one.**
- **If faith is empty ~ hope is empty**
- **If resurrection is real ~ hope is unstoppable**
- **Paul tells us exactly that this resurrection means for us!**
 - I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.** He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. **1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NLT**



- Towards the end of Peter's Pentecost sermon: resurrection as the centerpiece proof of Jesus' lordship. Peter quotes David out of Psalm 16:8-11
 - "King David said this about him: 'I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. **No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.** Acts 2:22-26 NLT
 - **This is the effects of finding hope in the person of Jesus.**

While on the topside of life, the disciples, his mother and friends were deeply grieving – not just the loss of their beloved, but also everything they had hoped was true about what Jesus talked about!

Even in death, **Jesus was not passive.**

- His **body rested in the tomb**
- His **mission was still advancing**
- Death was not a pause; it was **part of the story.**

"Unstoppable Hope"

Even when everything looked silent... **God was still at work.**

Resurrection Sunday is absolute proof that even though we only see darkness and death in our deepest moments of grief – that moment we want to give up, walk away or walk out on God. Let's be clear, God is still at work! **Because HOPE IS UNSTOPPABLE.**

This death to life makes hope even more important!

Jesus spent three years with the disciples. They saw him, heard him, they ate with him and watched him do the most amazing miracles – feeding the 5000, commanding a full-blown lake storm to immediate stop (not just the wind, but also the waves) and calling out their friend after being dead for **four days!** They followed. They even believed to a point. Yet, they still could not understand why Jesus had to die! Their faith had to endure until the resurrection. And they could not fully believe until they saw Jesus with their own eyes! Our faith has to endure life's troubles and our faith has to be secure even though we do not physically see Jesus.

What is hope?

What does hope feel like? What does it do? How can I get it?

Hope isn't a notion or even an emotion. Hope isn't a mantra, or a methodology. It's not a system, a script or a checklist. **For me, Hope Has a Name – it's JESUS.**

Hope isn't a feeling in some ethereal form; **it's a solid and lifelong belief in a person. It is faith.** When Jesus rose from the dead, he helped his followers rebuild their life into a completely new paradigm. This new life would be dependent on this cycle:

- God speaks, we see or hear God's revelation, His promise.
- We believe,
- we obey,
- we experience hope while in the process of moving forward.

Hope is not passive its tenaciously aggressive in faith.



DIG DEEPER: What is hope?

The word hope is a difficult to explain and practice as the word love.

We can love tacos, a sunny day, our friends, family and even pets! We can also hope for tacos for lunch, a sunny day tomorrow, a pleasant time with friends or that our pet doesn't pee on something while were gone.

The way we use these powerful words makes them feel to accessible, too weak, sometimes even too cheap. But understand this: behind our casual, comfortable usage of these words, **there is God who IS these words** and backs them with his own reputation.

He loved us and gave us hope to not just survive, but to live to thrive!

The Biblical Model: It is not pick or choose — It's a repetitive loop.

1. Revelation (God speaks / acts)
2. Belief (trust forms)
3. Action (obedience step)
4. Experience (God proves faithful)
5. Belief is strengthened
6. Creating deeper hope

Our response:

Belief → Hope → Action

There are many “hope handles” in the Bible to help us understand how this all works:

1. Hope as an Anchor (Stability in Uncertainty)

- **Scripture:**
 - Hebrews 6:19 — “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

2. Hope as Resurrection Power (Life After Total Loss)

- **Scripture:**

- 1 Peter 1:3 — “He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:17–19 — Without resurrection, hope collapses.

3. Hope as Waiting with Expectation (Not Passive, but Active)

- **Scripture:**

- Psalm 130 5–6 — “I wait for the Lord... more than watchmen wait for the morning.”
- Romans 8:24–25 — “Hope that is seen is not hope... we wait for it patiently.”

4. Hope as Future Certainty (Inheritance Already Secured)

- **Scripture:**

- Romans 8:16–17 — heirs with Christ
- Titus 1:2 — “hope of eternal life, which God... promised before the beginning of time”

5. Hope as Endurance Under Pressure (Fuel for Suffering)

- **Scripture:**

- Romans 5:3–5 — suffering → perseverance → character → hope
- James 1:2–4 — trials produce maturity

6. Hope as a Person, Not Just a Feeling

- **Scripture:**

- Colossians 1:27 — “Christ in you, the hope of glory”
- John 14:19 — “Because I live, you also will live”

Faith is stepping onto the bridge.

Hope is realizing it's actually holding you.

Faith initiates, hope validates.

Peter writes this about hope:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth **into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV**

Living Hope

- **Anchored in the person of Jesus who is resurrected**
- **Holds steady when life shakes**
- **Moves even when it doesn't feel ready**
- **Produces endurance, change, and more hope**

- **What happens to your faith when life doesn't go your way?**
- **When prayers feel unanswered?**
- **When circumstances contradict what you hoped for?**

Because that's where you find out if your faith is real... or just familiar

Because Jesus walked out of the grave, He can walk into your story.

REFLECTIONS

- Jesus' resurrection is THE guarantee of hope.
- Hope requires belief in God, who He is and what He promises
- Hope is an actionable faith.
- Hope sustains us when all seems to fail us.

APPLICATION

Unstoppable Hope – Hope Walked Out.

- Even when the disciples could not see Jesus, He was actively working.
 - Where are you in your struggles? Can you still see Jesus?
- Jesus walked out of the grave to give hope.
 - Will you walk away from what's killing you?
- Holds steady when life shakes.
 - Can you reach out and hold onto Jesus until he gives you peace?

CLOSING SCRIPTURE & PRAYER: 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**

SCRIPTURES

John 19:12 NLT ON SCREEN

Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, "If you release this man, you are no 'friend of Caesar.' Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.

John 19:14-15 NLT ON SCREEN

It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, "Look, here is your king!" "Away with him," they yelled. "Away with him! Crucify him!" "What? Crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the leading priests shouted back.

Matthew 27:24-25 ESV ON SCREEN

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Luke 24:4 NLT ON SCREEN

As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

Luke 24:45 NLT ON SCREEN

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2 NLT ON SCREEN

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—**unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 NLT ON SCREEN

I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.** He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

Acts 2:22-26 NLT ON SCREEN

“King David said this about him: ‘I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.

1 Peter 1:3-5 NIV

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth **into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.



DIG DEEPER NOTES



What was Peter referring to saying, “proclaimed to disobedient spirits?”

If they were the righteous dead, why does Peter write about Jesus preaching to "spirits in prison?"



What was Jesus doing for those 3 days?

In the “**3 days**” Jesus body was in the tomb; he clearly was busy elsewhere! While Jesus body rested on the Sabbath - His spirit was working.

Key passages about what He may have been doing

“Preaching to the spirits”

- Peter says Jesus was “...**made alive in the spirit... he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison.**” 1 Peter 3:18–19
- Paul says Jesus “**Descended to the lower parts**” Ephesians 4:9 “...he also descended to the lower earthly regions...”

Presence in Paradise (with the righteous dead)

- Went to “**Paradise**” (Luke 23:43)
- Was with the righteous who had died in faith
- Some traditions say He **liberated or led them into God’s presence.**

Jesus, between death and resurrection:

- **Entered the realm of the dead** (often called Sheol/Hades)
- **Proclaimed victory over sin, death, and evil powers**
- Not offering salvation, but declaring triumph
 - Paul says Jesus “disarmed the powers... triumphing over them”
Colossians 2:15



What is Hope?

In Hebrews 1, the author gives this extraordinary attempt to define faith. Saying, “it’s the “*hupostasis*,” assurance, of things “*elpizō*,” hoped for.

What is so wild is that he uses three words: faith, hope and conviction - three “feeling” words that are all hard to define, let alone explain.

There are solid scriptures that put some handles on the word “hope?”

Hebrews 11:1 uses layered, abstract language—*πίστις* (*faith*), *ὑπόστασις* (*hupostasis: assurance/substance*), *ἐλπίζω* (*elpizō: hope*), and *ἔλεγχος* (*conviction/evidence*)—which are difficult to define because they describe internal realities. Scripture consistently “grounds” hope not with definitions, but with **events, images, and lived outcomes.**

Clear metaphors and narratives that make hope concrete.

1. Hope as an Anchor (Stability in Uncertainty)

- **Scripture:**
→ Hebrews 6:19 — “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

What it means (step-by-step):

- An anchor does not remove the storm.
- It prevents drifting and destruction.
- It holds you to something unseen (the seabed).

Handle: Hope = *what keeps you from drifting when nothing around you feels stable.*

2. Hope as Resurrection Power (Life After Total Loss)

- **Scripture:**
→ 1 Peter 1:3 — “He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
→ 1 Corinthians 15:17–19 — Without resurrection, hope collapses.

What it means:

- The disciples lost all hope on Friday.
- Sunday didn’t just restore hope—it **redefined reality**.
- Hope is not optimism; it is **based on a historical event**.

Handle: Hope = *confidence that God can reverse what looks permanently dead.*

3. Hope as Waiting with Expectation (Not Passive, but Active)

- **Scripture:**
→ Psalm 130 5–6 — “I wait for the Lord... more than watchmen wait for the morning.”
→ Romans 8:24–25 — “Hope that is seen is not hope... we wait for it patiently.”

What it means:

- Waiting is not inactivity—it’s **positioning**.
- The watchman knows morning is coming—it’s not uncertain.
- Hope lives in the tension between **promise and fulfillment**.

Handle: Hope = *waiting with certainty, not guessing.*

4. Hope as Future Certainty (Inheritance Already Secured)

- **Scripture:**
→ Romans 8:16–17 — heirs with Christ
→ Titus 1:2 — “hope of eternal life, which God... promised before the beginning of time”

What it means:

- Biblical hope is tied to **God’s character**, not circumstances.
- It is future-oriented, but **legally secured now**.
- It rests on the assumption: *God does not lie.*

Handle: Hope = *a promised future that is already guaranteed.*

5. Hope as Endurance Under Pressure (Fuel for Suffering)

- **Scripture:**
→ Romans 5:3–5 — suffering → perseverance → character → hope
→ James 1:2–4 — trials produce maturity

What it means:

- Hope is not the absence of suffering—it is **formed through it**.
- It gives meaning to pain.
- It prevents quitting.

Handle: Hope = *what keeps you moving when everything says stop.*

6. Hope as a Person, Not Just a Feeling

- **Scripture:**
→ Colossians 1:27 — “Christ in you, the hope of glory”
→ John 14:19 — “Because I live, you also will live”

What it means:

- Hope is not abstract—it is **relational**.
- It is anchored in **Christ's presence**, not just His promises.
- This connects directly to your theme: "*Hope Breathes in Us.*"

Handle: Hope = a living presence inside you, not just a future idea.

Summary (Hope Handles)

| Biblical Image | What Hope Means |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Anchor | Stability in chaos |
| Resurrection | Life after loss |
| Waiting Watchman | Certain expectation |
| Inheritance | Guaranteed future |
| Endurance | Fuel in suffering |
| Christ in you | Living internal reality |

Theological Clarity

- Biblical hope is **not emotional optimism** (source: Romans 8:24–25).
- It is **objective confidence rooted in God's promise and action** (source: Titus 1:2).
- It is **experienced internally but grounded externally** (resurrection, covenant, character of God).

Beyond Beliefs — Framing the Question

Nir Eyal argues that behavior flows from internal beliefs—often unconscious—and that changing beliefs reshapes actions. If he says *hope is a belief*, he is not far off—but Scripture makes a **critical distinction** that sharpens this.

Step 1 — Define the Relationship (Biblically, Not Psychologically)

1. Belief (Biblical)

- Greek: *pisteuō / pistis*
- Meaning: trust, reliance, confidence in truth

→ Romans 10:9 — belief is trust in a person (Christ), not just an idea

2. Hope (Biblical)

- Greek: *elpizō / elpis*
- Meaning: confident expectation of a promised future

→ Romans 8:24–25 — hope is future-oriented and unseen

3. Faith (Bridge Word)

- Hebrews 11:1 connects them:
 - Faith = *substance (hupostasis)* of hope
 - Faith = *evidence (elegchos)* of unseen reality
-

Step 2 — The Functional Relationship

This is the clearest, biblically accurate sequence:

Belief → Hope → Action

1. Belief establishes truth

- “God is who He says He is.”

2. Hope projects that truth into the future

- “Because of that, something good is coming.”

3. Action lives in the present because of both

- “Therefore, I live differently now.”

Step 3 — Scripture That Shows the Connection Clearly

Abraham (Hope Built on Belief)

- → Romans 4:18
“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...”

Step-by-step:

- Circumstances: no reason for hope (old age, no child)
- Belief: God’s promise is true
- Result: hope emerges because belief precedes it

Conclusion: Hope is not independent—it is **generated by belief in God’s promise**

Israel in Exile (Loss of Hope = Collapse of Belief)

- → Ezekiel 37:11
“Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone...”

Observation:

- When belief in God’s future collapsed → hope disappeared

Resurrection (Belief Produces Living Hope)

- → 1 Peter 1:3
“New birth into a living hope through the resurrection...”

Sequence:

- Event (resurrection)
- Belief in that event
- Result: *living hope*

Step 4 — Where Nir Eyal Is Right (and Where Scripture Goes Further)

What He Gets Right (Behaviorally)

- Beliefs shape perception of the future
- Perception of the future shapes motivation
- Therefore: belief → hope → behavior

This aligns with Scripture.

Where Scripture Goes Further (Critical Difference)

Nir Eyal (behavioral view):

Hope = internal belief about future outcomes

Biblical view:

Hope = **confidence grounded in an external, trustworthy source (God)**

Key Distinction

| Category | Behavioral View | Biblical View |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Source | Internal belief | God’s promise |
| Stability | Subject to change | Anchored in God’s character |
| Nature | Psychological | Theological + relational |

Step 5 — The Tightest Definition You Can Preach

Here is a precise, biblically defensible formulation:

Belief is trusting what God has said.

Hope is expecting what God will do because of it.

Step 6 — Why This Matters

- If hope is just belief → it stays intellectual
- If hope flows from belief in a *living Christ* → it becomes **internal, active, alive**

→ Colossians 1:27

“Christ in you, the hope of glory”

Implication:

- Hope is not merely something you *think*
 - It is something that **lives in you because of who you believe in**
-

Final Summary (Clear + Preachable)

- Belief answers: *Is this true?*
- Hope answers: *What does that mean for my future?*
- Faith holds both together and produces action

Scripture shows a two-way dynamic:

- **Belief** → **hope** → **action** (the classic flow)
- **Action** → **strengthened belief** → **deeper hope** (the reinforcing loop)

But the Bible is clear: **the origin is not action—it is God’s revelation and promise.**

Action does not create truth; it **confirms, exercises, and deepens trust in it.**

Does Scripture Show This Pattern?

Yes—but never as the starting point

A. Action Strengthens Faith (Not Creates It)

- → James 2:22
“Faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works.”

Step-by-step:

- Abraham already believed God
- He acted (offering Isaac)
- His faith was **completed / matured** through action

Conclusion:

Action doesn't start faith—it **develops and proves it**

B. Obedience Produces Understanding

- → John 7:17
“If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God...”

Order:

- Do (action)
- Then know (belief clarity)

This is critical:

Jesus explicitly teaches that **movement can precede clarity**

C. Hope Grows Through Experience

- → Romans 5:3–5

Sequence:

- Suffering
- Perseverance (action/endurance)
- Character
- Hope

Observation:

Hope is not injected—it is **formed through lived response**

3. Where This Connects to Hope Specifically

Hope is rarely described as a passive feeling in Scripture.

It is consistently tied to **movement**:

Waiting = Active Posture

- → Psalm 130 5
“I wait for the Lord...”

Waiting in Hebrew thought = **expectant positioning**, not inactivity

Running the Race = Hope in Motion

- → Hebrews 12:1–2
“Let us run... fixing our eyes on Jesus”

Hope here is not emotional—it is **directional movement**

4. The Biblical Model (Clear Framework)

Not Either/Or — It's a Loop

1. Revelation (God speaks / acts)

↓

2. Belief (trust forms)

↓

3. Action (obedience step)

↓

4. Experience (God proves faithful)

↓

5. Strengthened Belief

↓

6. Deeper Hope

↓

Repeat

5. Key Theological Guardrail (Important)

Here is where you must be precise:

Action can strengthen faith and hope, but it cannot create them out of nothing.

Why?

- → Romans 10:17
“Faith comes from hearing...”

Source of faith = God's Word, not human behavior

6. The Tension

Faith is not a feeling you wait for.

It is a step you take.

And often, the feeling follows the step.

7. Concrete Biblical Examples

Peter Walking on Water

- → Matthew 14:29

Sequence:

1. Jesus speaks
2. Peter steps out
3. Then experiences reality

If Peter waits for confidence → he never steps

The Lepers Healed “As They Went”

- → Luke 17:14

“They were cleansed **as they went**”

Healing (outcome) followed movement (obedience)

Joshua and the Jordan River

- → Joshua 3:13

Water didn't part until:

- Priests stepped in
 - Then God moved
-

8. Summary

- Action → belief

Scripture (full picture):

- God speaks → belief begins
 - Action → belief strengthens
 - Experience → hope deepens
-

9.

Hope is not something you wait to feel—it's something you step into, and discover it was real all along.

Imagine standing at the edge of a deep canyon.

There's a **rope bridge** in front of you—but it disappears into thick fog.

You've been told:

- “*This bridge will hold you.*”
- “*It leads somewhere solid.*”

But you can't see the other side.

And you definitely don't *feel* confident.

The Tension

Most people say:

“I'll go when I feel ready.”

But here's the problem:

You will never feel certainty about something you haven't stepped into.

The Turn (Biblical Anchor)

This is exactly how Scripture frames it:

- → Hebrews 11:1
Faith is *the substance of things hoped for*
- → 2 Corinthians 5:7
“We walk by faith, not by sight”

The Moment (Key Insight)

The bridge doesn't become “real” to you when:

- you understand it
- you analyze it
- you feel good about it

It becomes real when:

you put weight on it

The Action

So you take one step.

- The bridge creaks
- Your heart races
- You still don't feel confident

But it holds.

The Revelation

Then something changes—not in the bridge, but in you.

After the first step:

- belief becomes stronger
- fear doesn't disappear, but it loosens
- hope starts to rise

Why?

Because now you've experienced what you trusted.

Biblical Parallel

- → Matthew 14:29 — Peter steps onto water
- → Luke 17:14 — healed *as they went*
- → Joshua 3:13 — river parts after the step

Pattern:

God often waits for movement before revealing outcome.

Faith is stepping onto the bridge.

Hope is realizing it's actually holding you.

This is why:

- hope doesn't just sit in your mind
- it doesn't show up fully formed as a feeling

Hope breathes in you when you move with God—before you feel ready.

You don't wait for hope to feel real—

you step, and discover it was real all along.
