



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 24: Set Your Hope Fully

1 Peter 1:13–16 *[Prepare] your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ... but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

We close our segment on expectancy with a verse that gathers up everything covered thus far and ties it all together; all while preparing us for the next stage of our journey. Peter commands us to “set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Not a divided hope or a half-hearted glance toward the future while our real hopes stay anchored here. We are to have a hope set fully, completely, on Christ’s appearing. This is not a fanciful hope in the by and by or a theoretically better world. This is a grounded faith-based hope that God will fulfill His promises.

We are not only called to a mind frame of faith but to action. “Preparing your minds for action” translates a phrase that literally means to gird up the loins of your mind. In the ancient world, a person wearing a long robe would tuck it up into his belt before running or working, so nothing would trip him. Peter says: do that with your mind. Gather up the loose, dangling distractions. Get mentally ready, stay alert, and unhindered; like a runner stripped for the race, because you are living toward a great and certain day. Consider how directly Peter moves from expectancy to holiness. Set your hope on Christ’s return, he says, and therefore “be holy in all your conduct... ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” The hope and faith of His appearing and the pursuit of holiness are not two separate assignments; the first fuels the second. A mind girded up and fixed fully on Christ’s return is a mind protected from the slow drift into sin. R.C. Sproul often reminded the church that God’s own holiness is the standard and the summons; that the call “be holy, for I am holy” is not a suggestion but the very nature of God pressed upon His children.

So here is the culmination of our next pillar of F.E.A.R: the expectant life is the holy life. The believer who lives with a mind alert, and a hope fixed fully on the returning Christ, finds himself increasingly unable to

live carelessly. Since His eyes are on his King. His heart is leaning toward home, and that forward-leaning posture keeps him upright in the present.

This carries us straight into what comes next. Peter says to set our hope on Christ — but how do we keep our eyes fixed on a Savior we cannot yet see? The answer is the third letter of our journey: A, Abiding — learning to dwell in the daily presence of the Lord, so that the One we await is also the One we walk with, every ordinary hour of our lives up until He appears.

TAKE AWAY

Gird up your mind like a runner stripping for the race — gather up the loose distractions and fix your hope fully on the returning Christ. The expectant life is the holy life.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you set your hope fully on His return today, with a mind prepared for action and a life set apart as holy.