

HOPE **“Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”**
Ps 33:22 (KJV)

As we journey through life, we put our hope in people, places, or things. When you put your hope in something... you better make sure it's in the right place. The Bible has much to say about hope:

Heb 11:1,6 (KJV)

- 1 Now *faith is the substance of things hoped for*, the evidence of things not seen.
6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: **for he that cometh to God must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Ps 33:18-22 (KJV)

- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that **hope in his mercy**;
19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.
20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield.
21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.
22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according **as we hope in thee**.

Ps 71:5 (KJV)

- 5 For **thou art my hope, O Lord GOD**: thou art my trust from my youth.

Ps 71:14-17 (KJV)

- 14 But **I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more**.
15 My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.
16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.
17 O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

Ps 78:1-8 (KJV)

- 1 Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:
3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.
5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:
6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:
7 **That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:**
8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

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HOPE can be used as an acronym that stands for the following thoughts:

- H** Hear God’s Word
Romans 10:17, Psalms 119:111-116, Psalms 130:5, 2 Peter 2:6-15,
Hebrews 5:11-14, Deuteronomy 1:16-46 (story when Israel didn’t hear God)
- O** Order Your Steps Correctly
Psalms 119:133, Colossians 2:5-7
- P** Pray Always
Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6
- E** Evangelize Those Around You
2 Timothy 4:5, 1 Timothy 4:11-16 (takes you back to “hear”)

Hear God’s Word

Rom 10:17 (KJV)

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and **hearing by the word of God.**

Ps 119:111-116 (KJV)

- 111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.
- 112 I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.
- 113 I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.
- 114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield: **I hope in thy word.**
- 115 Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.
- 116 Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and **let me not be ashamed of my hope.**

Ps 130:5 (KJV)

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and **in his word do I hope.**

Do you have a spiritual hearing problem? Being skillful in the Word is the perfect hearing aid!

Heb 5:11-14 (KJV)

- 11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, **seeing ye are dull of hearing.**
- 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
- 13 For every one that useth milk is **unskilful in the word** of righteousness: for he is a babe.

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14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Here are some examples of someone being not hearing God’s word and being led astray...

2 Pet 2:6-15 (KJV)

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;
7 And delivered just Lot, **vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:**
8 **(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)**
9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.
11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.
12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;
13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;
14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Deuteronomy 1:42-45 (KJV)

42 And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.
43 So I spake unto you; and **ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD**, and went presumptuously up into the hill.
44 And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.
45 And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

Order Your Steps Correctly

Ps 119:133 (KJV)

133 **Order my steps in thy word:** and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

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Col 2:5-7 (KJV)

- 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and
 beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.
6 **As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:**
7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught,
 abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Pray Always

Eph 6:18 (KJV)

- 18 **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching
 thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Phil 4:6-7 (KJV)

- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing **by prayer and supplication with
 thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**
7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts
 and minds through Christ Jesus.

Evangelize Those Around You

2 Tim 4:5 (KJV)

- 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist,**
 make full proof of thy ministry.

1 Tim 4:11-16 (KJV)

- 11 These things command and teach.
12 Let no man despise thy youth; but **be thou an example of the believers**, in word,
 in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the
 laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may
 appear to all.
16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this
 thou shalt both **save thyself, and them that hear thee.**

Your HOPE needs to be in the right place!

The wicked have hope but it shall perish

Prov 10:28 (KJV)

- 28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the **expectation of the wicked
 shall perish.**

Hypocrites have hope but it shall perish

Job 8:13-15 (KJV)

- 13 So are the paths of all that forget God; and **the hypocrite's hope shall perish:**
14 Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web.
15 He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.

Job 27:8-10 (KJV)

- 8 **For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?**
9 Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?
10 Will he delight himself in the Almighty? will he always call upon God?

There are those that have no hope

Isa 38:18 (KJV)

- 18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: **they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.**

1Thes 4:13-14 (KJV)

- 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, **even as others which have no hope.**
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

The proper place to put your hope is in Christ Jesus!

Rom 5:1-11 (KJV)

- 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
2 By whom also **we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, **hope:**
5 **And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**
6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

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- 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Eph 2:11-19 (KJV)

- 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;
12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world:**
13 **But now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Col 1:21-23 (KJV)

- 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:
23 **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,** which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

In conclusion:

Do you **Hear** God's Word? How often?
Are your steps **Ordered** properly? Is God first?
Do you **Pray** about all aspects in your life?
Do you do the work of an **Evangelist** being not ashamed of the gospel?

Hopefully, the next time you hear the word “HOPE” you’ll think on these things.