

Overflowing with Hope

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Ray of Hope Christian Church
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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.

Romans 15:13



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.



**Hopelessness is
characterized by absolute
despair with no
expectation of good.**



**We finally gave up all hope
of being saved.**

Acts 27:20



Discussion:

Have you ever felt this way? Are you feeling that way right now?

What is the reason for your hopelessness? Can you name it?



Psalm 27



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**Despair is not a momentary
affliction or experience.**



**Despair tends to be
more persistent.**



**Despair likes to pull you
down into a deep dark hole,
making you feel like there
is no way out.**



**Despair is a complete
loss or absence of hope.**



**Scorn has broken my heart and has
left me helpless. I looked for
sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.**

Psalm 69:20



**Life is always presenting us
with certain accelerates that can
so easily push us over the edge
into the pit of despair.**

James McDonald



Surprises



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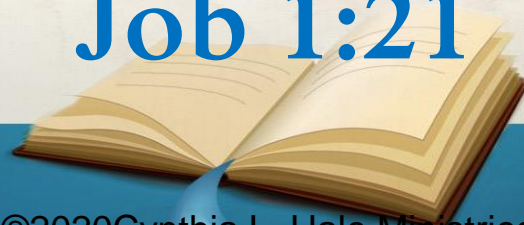
Severity



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**Naked I came from my mother's
womb, and naked I will depart.
The Lord gave and the Lord has
taken away; may the name of the
Lord be praised.**

Job 1:21



**I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually
be in my mouth.**

Psalm 34:1



Settledness

Despair sets in when we believe that whatever has happened to us is settled and irreversible.



- **Saints are not immune to feelings of despair.**
- **Trouble and suffering are present and persistent realities for us.**



Discussion:

**How does your
despair manifest itself?**



**The good news is this;
God has not left us to deal with
our feelings alone. The promises
of God help us guard against
the possibility of despair.**



**Captive every thought to make it
obedient to Christ.**



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**The weapons that we fight with are not carnal;
they are not the weapons of this world.
But on they contrary, they have divine power
to demolish strongholds, every argument
and every pretension that sets itself up
against the knowledge of God.**

II Corinthians 10



**You can demolish it
with praise.**



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**The Lord is my light and my
salvation—whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my
life—of whom shall I be afraid?**



**I remain confident in this, I will
see the goodness of the Lord in
the land of the living.**

Psalm 27:13



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**Hope in the biblical sense is
“confident expectation in
God, that his promises will
be fulfilled.”**



This is what some have referred to as “cultural” hope. Cultural hope is an optimistic “assurance” that something will be fulfilled.



The Christian's hope is a “guaranteed” hope not subject to change, but rather anchored in our unchangeable Savior and Lord. Biblical hope is a firm conviction that the future promises of God will be fulfilled.



That they were separated from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenant of the promise, without Christ and without hope.

Ephesians 2:12



Our hope is in God.



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**We have put our hope in the
living God, who is the Savior of
all people, and especially of those
who believe.**

1 Timothy 4:10



Hope looks to God.



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**Our hope is based on what
Jesus Christ has revealed to us
about God. Particularly in his
death and resurrection.**



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. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead, and so your faith and hope are in God.

I Peter 1:3,21



**If we died with him, we will also
live with him; If we endure, we
will also reign with him.**

II Timothy 2:11-12



**It is in this hope that we, too,
will triumph and have victory
over everything that we are
faced with in this life.**



**It is through this hope that we
can rejoice, no matter what we
are going through.**



Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12



**In the scriptures, hope is tied up
with patience, perseverance,
waiting on God, long suffering
and self-control.**



Romans 5:2b – 5



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Discussion:

How does the resurrection of Christ give you hope? How does his second coming engender hope in you?



Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever felt hopeless? Are you feeling that way right now? What is the reason for your hopelessness? Can you name it?

2. How does your despair manifest itself?

3. How does the resurrection of Christ give you hope? How does his second coming engender hope in you?

