

"Calculating Hope"

Text: Romans 5:2-5

The way we use the word "hope" in our language is not the same as the way the word "hope" is used in the Bible.

The Bible is not talking about wishful _____, it's talking about "calculated _____".

Hope is not a _____. It's more like a calculated decision demonstrated by deliberate actions. Another way to say it is that hope is a choice you make.

1. Dare to Rejoice. Ref: Philippians 3:1: 4:4 KJV

The Bible never commands us to feel a certain way, but it does often command us to _____ a certain way, or do certain things. Such as rejoice.

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2

That means we choose to take joy now because we know that ultimately God will cause all things to work together for _____.

So Paul says, we can choose to rejoice _____ for the victory we'll experience in the future, because we know that victory will ultimately be ours and God will ultimately bring it about. Ref: Romans 5:2, Luke 10:10

The Bible never says that God sends your way all the _____ and _____ and _____ you face. God is not the author of your suffering---but---God can take whatever suffering comes your way and make something _____ come out of it. Ref: Neh. 13:2, Jer. 31;13

Paul is saying that when anything is happening in your life that you don't like, anything that brings pain your way, great or small, you can dare to rejoice even in that, knowing that (because of your _____ with Jesus Christ) the only thing this problem can do to you is strengthen your resolve, strengthen your character, and strengthen your outlook on life.

Hope says, "I know this isn't happening to me, it's happening for me. This problem is helping me to produce the _____ I most want in my life."

2. Dare to Endure. Ref. 1st Thessalonians 1:3

Hope is not a feeling, it's an _____. One of the ways that we act out hope is that we stick with it, even when we don't feel like sticking with it. Hope is all about endurance. Ref: Daniel 3:17-18

You could say that _____ is the final destination, and _____ is the journey that gets you there.

Hope is daring to _____, refusing to jump ship, even when you don't know how the story will end. Ref: 2nd Timothy 2:6-8
The rain falls on the just and the unjust. Ref: Matthew 5:45

Hope empowers you to live with the expectation that the verdict of _____ will reverse the verdict of today.