

# “OUR GOOD HOPE THROUGH GRACE”<sup>1</sup>

Text: Psalms 42 & 43

## INTRODUCTION:

“Vanity” (emptiness, frustration, unfulfilled expectations) Eccles. 1:1-14 –Solomon  
*Have you ever been depressed?*

**“Depression is a result of a loss of HOPE.”** –Jim Berg

*So is there any hope of getting on top of life and its difficulties, trials, and troubles? Yes, there IS real, life-changing Hope available to those who will put their faith & trust in Christ!*

- I. **HOPE: WHAT IT IS.** It’s not like someone who says, “*I hope it rains today.*” There’s no faith in that statement, no trust, no real concern one way or the other.

**DEFINITION OF HOPE:** “*Comfort, Expectation, Confidence, Trust.*”<sup>2</sup> “*Settled Certainty*”<sup>3</sup>

- A. **HOPE IS ROOTED IN FAITH.** –Rom. 4:17-18; 8:24 (“*Hope that is seen is not hope*”); Gal. 5:5
- B. **HOPE MUST HAVE A SOLID OBJECT or BASIS!** Job 13:15 “*Though He slay me, I will hope in HIM i.e. the Lord!*”(NASV). Ps. 39:7 “*My hope is in Thee...*”

Norman Vincent Peale, who wrote “*The Power of Positive Thinking*” used to say: “*Have Faith!*”  
But he never told you what to have faith *in!* He would just say “*Have faith*” & that was it.  
But faith **MUST HAVE AN OBJECT, A BASIS!**

- C. **BELIEVERS HAVE A BLESSED HOPE, A CERTAIN HOPE, A TRUE HOPE & A LIVING HOPE!** –I Pet 1:3 “*Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who hath begotten us unto a LIVING hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away...*”

cf. I Cor. 15:14, 19 “*If Christ be not risen your faith is vain and ye are yet in your sins...*”

## II. **HOPE: WHAT IT DOES.**

- A. **HOPE ENABLES US TO ENDURE DIFFICULTIES, HEARTACHES, TRIALS & SORROWS!**  
–I Thess. 5:8 “*Put on...as a helmet the hope of salvation.*” (NASV)

**But that doesn’t mean it’s easy!** Prov. 13:12 – “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick.*” I always understood that to mean that if you don’t get what you want, you feel disappointed and unhappy. But here’s another thought: Could it perhaps also imply that when I’m hoping for God to do something special in my life and it doesn’t happen like I may be envisioning, I can tend to become discouraged?

<sup>1</sup> Based on a message preached at Goroka Baptist Church, Papua New Guinea, c. 2002; Bible Baptist Church, Madison, Ohio, 17 July, 2005; Hope Baptist Church, Greenville, SC, 31 July, 2005 & Choppins Baptist, St. Vincent, West Indies, c. 2007-2008. These thoughts & verses rewritten and distributed at an evening Bible Study at Bible Baptist Church, Madison, Ohio, fall, 2013 (rev. 3/2018)

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Charles Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible* (NASV) (Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1976, 1978) p. 2056

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Michael Peck, Baptist Church Planters (from a message preached at Bible Baptist Church, Madison, Ohio, c. 2015).

## THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT DIFFICULTIES & TRIALS WE WILL FACE IN OUR LIFETIME.

For example:

- 1) **PHYSICAL PROBLEMS.**
  - a) **Aging, & all that goes with it.** For instance: A man still singing hymns & quoting Scripture even though he was not “*all there*” mentally or a loved one who towards the end did not even recognize who you were; etc.
  - b) **Sickness & Illness.** For example: A man whose daughter was born with physical abnormalities or parents whose child nearly died during infancy due to disease, etc.
- 2) **DEATH** –I Thess. 4:13 “...*we sorrow not as those who have no hope.*” Anyone who has had a Christian loved one die, especially in the prime of their life.
- 3) **DEEP EMOTIONAL PAIN** – From things like divorce, wayward children &/or parents, loss of friends or loved ones through death, misunderstandings, etc.).

### **SO HOW CAN YOU & I DEAL WITH DIFFICULT LIFE SITUATIONS LIKE THOSE ABOVE, AND EVEN *TRIUMPH OVER THEM?***

Well... *how did David deal with his difficulties?* -Psalm 42-43. He was being chased all over the caves & hillsides of Judea, running for his life. And he longed so much to be back in Jerusalem fellowshiping with his friends and worshipping God. But it was impossible. He was encountering “*great waves, great billows, great storms!*” So what did he do? He reminded himself that the waves, the storms, the billows were ultimately *allowed* by God. They were “Thy waterspouts...Thy waves...Thy billows.” And so he said he would not cast away his trust and hope in his God! Cf. Rom. 12:12 “*Rejoicing in hope...*”

**Note:** When we don’t cast away our hope, it bears the fruit of *encouragement* in the lives of others as well—*both saved and unsaved*—who know us! Read Heb. 10:32-39; Rom. 8:22-25; II Cor. 4:8-5:9.

#### **PARENTHETICAL QUESTION:**

***“SO WHY THE DEEP TRIALS & HEARTACHES IN LIFE?”***

**Answer:**

- 1) **We live in a sin-cursed world.** It’s part of the results of the choice we made way back in the Garden, when we were in Adam.  
  
**LOVE** (requires that there be a) ----- **CHOICE** (& to be real, it must have) ----- **RESULTS**<sup>4</sup>
- 2) **Trials humble us.** –II Cor. 12:7-10. Without the trials and difficulties, we would be even more self-centered & bigger egotists than we already are!
- 3) **When we trust & lean on God’s promises during trials we grow spiritually.** In the Old Testament God gave some wonderful promises to Israel. And while we’re not Israel, I believe that those of us who comprise spiritual Israel can draw an application from them as well e.g. Isa. 41:9-10; 43:2.
- 4) **Remember too, that God will never give you more than you can endure!** – I Cor. 10:13. God told Paul: “*My grace is sufficient for thee...*” The definition of “*sufficient*”: “*As much as is needed... having no lack, but nothing left over*” (Am. Heritage Dictionary) Cf. “*How Firm a Foundation.*”

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted from David A. Dewitt, “*Answering the Tough Ones*” (Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1980), pp. 75-80

- B. HOPE GIVES US **PEACE & CONSOLATION**. –I Thess. 4:13; II Thess. 2:16-17: “*Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.*”
- C. HOPE **PURIFIES OUR LIVES**. –I Jn. 3:2-3 “*...it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*”
- D. **A PRACTICAL BENEFIT: HOPE WILL CAUSE US TO TALK STRAIGHT**. –II Cor. 3:12

### III. HOPE: **WHERE IT'S FOUND**.

- A. HOPE IS FOUND **IN THE GOSPEL** (Eph. 1:12; Col. 1:23) *i.e.* **IN GOD & CHRIST** – I Tim. 4:10;
- “*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*” – Rom. 15:13 (NKJV)
  - “*Christ in you the hope of glory...*” – Col. 1:27
  - “*Consider Him [Christ], lest ye grow weary and faint in your hearts...*” – Heb. 12:2-3
  - “*I will hope in Him.*” – Job 13:15
- B. HOPE IS GAINED **BY READING SCRIPTURE!** –Rom. 15:4 “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience [i.e. endurance, perseverance] and comfort [i.e. encouragement] of the Scriptures, might have hope.*”  
 Why was a missionary teaching a group of women in another culture to read?  
 So they could read the Bible, because by reading the Bible their faith & hope would grow!
- C. HOPE IS GRANTED **BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**. –Rom. 15:13 “*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy [Spirit].*”  
 Ps. 62:5 “*My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation [“hope”]-NASV] is from Him.*”

### IV. HOPE: **IT'S ULTIMATE, INCREDIBLE CONSUMMATION!**

- Titus 3:7 “*...the hope of eternal life...*”
- Jer. 29:11 “*For I know the plans I have for you’ declares the Lord, plans of welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*”-NASV
- Titus 2:13 “*Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*”
- Gal. 5:5 “*For we, through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*”

A beautiful expression of *hope* and our basis for it is found in a classic hymn which states:  
*“My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood & righteousness”*