

Loving Our Neighbors
The Characteristics of Love
Love Hopes All Things

I. The Meaning of Hope

A. Lexically

to look forward to something, with implication of confidence about something coming to pass, hope, hope for

“to look forward to something, in view of the measures one takes to ensure fulfillment, expect” (Arndt, Danker, Bauer, p. 319)

“Always hopes is the forward look. This is not an unreasoning optimism, which fails to take account of reality. It is rather a refusal to take failure as final. It is the confidence that looks to ultimate triumph by the grace of God.” (Leon Morris, 1 Corinthians, p. 179)

B. Contextually

“Love ‘hopes all things.’ This is, however, not the hope which is directed to God in expectation of all good gifts from him but the hope that is directed toward our brethren and our fellow men, which expects what is best from them. Paul hoped in the case of the obdurate Jews and ceased not his prayers and his labors. Hope knows no pessimism. Yet the basis for this hope of love is not mere natural optimism but the effective grace of Jesus Christ. Love always expects that grace to conquer and to win its way.” (Lenski, 1 Corinthians, p. 561)

“It means that this hope is directed toward others and expects the best of them [Ho, Lns]. It means a refusal to take failure as defeat and a trust in the ultimate success of God’s plan [NTC, TNTC]. A key feature of hope is confidence, here confidence in God [TH]. It hopes that God will show mercy in a person’s behalf [NTC]. Hope is the conviction that there is God’s purpose in life, and that his purposes will be realized no matter how grim things look.” [AB] (Ronald Trail, 1 Corinthians 10-16, p. 180)

II. The Source of Hope

A. God's faithful character

Romans 15:13 - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

1 Peter 1:3 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

“Even when belief in a loved one’s goodness or repentance is shattered, love still hopes. When it runs out of faith it holds on to hope. As long as God’s grace is operative human failure is never final. God would not take Israel’s failure as final. Jesus would not take Peter’s failure as final. Paul would not take the Corinthians’ failure as final. There are more than enough promises in the Bible to make love hopeful. The parents of backslidden children, the spouse of an unbelieving marriage partner, the church that has disciplined members who do not repent—all hope in love that the child, the spouse, or the erring brother or sister will be saved or restored. Love refuses to take failure as final. The rope of love’s hope has no

end. As long as there is life, love does not lose hope. When our hope becomes weak, we know our love has become weak.” (John MacArthur, 1 Corinthians, p. 354)

B. God's sufficient Word

Romans 15:4 - *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

“Even when faith falters, hope comes to the rescue. It is that long rope that keeps us linked to the sovereignty and power of God.” (John MacArthur, Daily Readings for a Deeper Faith, p. 251)

III. The Importance of Hope

1. Because hope apart from God is false.

Job 8:13 - *The hope of the godless will perish.*

2. Because material possessions bring no hope.

Psalms 33:17 - *A horse is a false hope for victory...*

1 Timothy 6:17 - *Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.*

3. The sinful treatment of others brings no hope.

Psalms 62:10 - *Do not trust in oppression, and do not vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.*

4. The worship of idols brings no hope.

Jeremiah 14:22 - *Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not Thou, O LORD our God? Therefore we hope in Thee, for Thou art the one who hast done all these things.*

5. Biblical hope helps us develop patience.

Psalms 130:5 - *I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope.*

6. Biblical hope will impact the rate of your spiritual growth.

1 John 3:3 - *And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

7. Biblical hope will enhance your ability to share Christ.

1 Peter 3:15 - *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

2 Corinthians 3:12 - *Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech,*

8. Biblical hope will balance the way you view death.

your own death, and the death of those you love...

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - *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.*

9. Biblical hope will motivate your service for Christ.

1 Timothy 4:10 - *For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.*

Romans 15:13 - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*