

March 13, 2021

In today's hyper-critical media environment, hope has often been scoffed at as being for the naïve and the province of simpletons. At other times we have been offered what appears to be misplaced or misguided hope. Whichever the case, hope has been presented as something not for the serious or sophisticated. "Hope is not plan" is a mocking sound bite that has been used to effectively discount and discredit hope.

Hope has gotten a bad rap.

Hope is, however, the predecessor and motivation for every action and activity and this is based on solid Biblical evidence. Jesus told his disciples right before His death "*Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*" John 16:22. Jesus knew that His disciples would **need** the hope of future joy to walk the difficult road of immediate troubles that lay before them.

When we lift our eyes from the pain and perils in this world, and fix them on Christ's powerful and glorious hope – peace will rain like a balm into the cracks of our soul filled with fear and uncertainty. The Bible is very clear on the importance of hope – 1 Corinthians 13 lists it as one of the three great qualities. *Now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love. 1 Corinthians 13:*

Paul writes again about these three qualities to the Thessalonians. *We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.* What enabled the Thessalonians to endure the circumstances of their day? Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ!

Romans 12:12 highlights the importance of hope: *Be joyful in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.* In this scripture, hope precedes the endurance and even provides joy during the struggle. It also provides the impetus for persistent prayer and the power to endure that comes through walking with Jesus.

Hope may not be a nuts and bolts plan, but without it, no solution will ever be found. Do not underestimate the importance of hope in your spiritual walk.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31