

# Just a Thought ...

Do you have hope? Are you concerned about the future, about our government leaders, about world enemies, about your own soul? Is a lot of your time taken up with worrying, gribing about the events around you, and feeling somewhat if not very depressed? Is your hope real? Does it work? I think that sometimes our "hope" is not doing the job. I feel that for me, there are times when I use a hole in the sand as my "hope". I hide under there and use the sand to keep me away from the bad stuff. The sand helps me not think about what is going on around me. I need a lot of hope when I am seeing & hearing and thinking about the evil in the world. I seem to need less hope when I "zone" out. "Things will work out" I say.

One time a prisoner told me that "a man without hope is a dangerous man." A man without hope could break laws & kill people. A man without hope could hurt the people he loves. A man without hope could just curl into a ball and stop trying to function. A man without hope could live day to day in survival mode & just get by. A man without hope could obviously kill himself and end his entire miserable existence.

If we get our hope from our unpredictable daily feelings, we are in trouble. If we are trying to stop our body from crashing & burning while we are in an airplane that is crashing & burning, we have nothing to hold on to. What is wrong with figuring out what the source of hope is, and then hanging on to that with all your strength. What's wrong with deciding that our source of hope is no good, and that we should find another. If I am drowning and some throws me a huge piece of concrete, I should decide right then that the concrete is not going to help me. If several others throw concrete, does that mean that the concrete is the only answer? No! No.

# Help from the Bible

1. Acts 24:15 - "I have \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."
2. Romans 5:5 - Now \_\_\_\_\_ does not disappoint, because the love of God has been \_\_\_\_\_ out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was \_\_\_\_\_ to us."
3. Romans 15:4 - "For whatever things were written before were written for our \_\_\_\_\_, that we through the patience and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures might have \_\_\_\_\_."
4. Romans 15:13 - "Now may the God of \_\_\_\_\_ fill you with all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by the power of the Holy Spirit."
5. Ephesians 2:12 - "At the time you were without \_\_\_\_\_, being aliens & strangers, having no \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_ in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were \_\_\_\_\_ off have been brought \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood of Christ."
6. Philippians 1:20 - According to my earnest \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that in nothing I will be \_\_\_\_\_, but with all \_\_\_\_\_, now and in the future \_\_\_\_\_ will be magnified in my body, whether by \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_. For to me, to live is \_\_\_\_\_, and to die is \_\_\_\_\_."
7. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 - "We remember all the time your work of \_\_\_\_\_, labor of \_\_\_\_\_, and patience of \_\_\_\_\_ in our Lord Jesus."
8. 1 Timothy 1:1 - Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our \_\_\_\_\_ and the Lord Jesus Christ, our \_\_\_\_\_."
9. 1 Peter 1:21 - "Jesus was indeed foreordained before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, but was revealed in these last & recent times for you, though Jesus you \_\_\_\_\_ in God, Who raised Jesus from the \_\_\_\_\_ and gave Him glory, so that your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in God."
10. Proverbs 10:28 - "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the righteous will be \_\_\_\_\_."
11. Colossians 1:27 - "\_\_\_\_\_ in you, the \_\_\_\_\_ of glory."