

Pr 12:7. Evildoers are ensnared by their sinful talk Pr 12:13. Their lives are filled with evil, trouble, misery, misfortune and calamity Pr 12:21; 13:21. House of the wicked will be destroyed Pr 14:11. Wickedness overthrows them Pr 13:6. The lamp of the wicked will be put out. There is no future for the wicked; nothing to look forward to Pr 13:9; 24:20. Their belly is always in want Pr 13:25. Evil will never leave the house of those who return evil for good Pr 17:13. Violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do what is just Pr 21:7. Those who love worldly pleasures will become poor Pr 21:17. Whoever sows iniquity, reaps calamity. Sowing injustice results in calamity Pr 22:8; 26:27; Gal 6:7-8. Whoever increases his wealth by charging exorbitant interest, amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor Pr 28:8. Whoever leads the righteous along an evil path will fall into their own pit Pr 28:10. Companion of fools suffers harm Pr 13:20. Wages of the wicked is ruin Pr 15:6. The Lord is far from the wicked Pr 15:29. Using the tongue for evil, results in reaping the consequences Pr 18:21. God overthrows the wicked Pr 21:12. The wicked become a ransom for the righteous, and the faithless for the upright. The wicked themselves fall into the trap they prepare for the righteous Pr 21:18; 26:27. The faithless bring ruin on themselves Pr 13:15. Their evil ways are an abomination to the Lord Pr 15:9. Their sacrifice is an abomination Pr 21:27.

If you hope in the physical things of this world, you will be on the road to disaster. Money is so temporary and uncertain; but our relationship with God is everlasting. If you trust in God, then you have a living hope, because God's promise is that those who hope in Him, will never be ashamed or disappointed Ro 5:5; 10:11. They will be prosperous and blessed Pr 28:25; Jer 17:7-8, and are compared to healthy, fruitful trees, whose leaves are always green Ps 1. The decision you make now, will determine the road you will take, and final outcome in your life, and whether you have a living hope, or a dead hope; whether you are living a hopeful life, or a hopeless life! Will you leave the world behind you, and start hoping and trusting in God? What good will it do you, if you gain the whole world, and lose your life? Mt 16:26. **Remember: God's way is the best way, God's way is the right way, God's way is the only way! He wants the best for us, and He gives us hope in His word!**

Scriptural References:

Psalm 9:18
Psalm 25:3,5,21
Psalm 33:17-20
Psalm 52:9
Psalm 65:5
Psalm 119:114
Psalm 147:11
Proverbs 11:7,23,28
Proverbs 13:12
Proverbs 19:18
Proverbs 23:17-18
Proverbs 24:14,20
Proverbs 28:20,25
Ecclesiastes 9:4-6,10
Isaiah 38:18-19
Isaiah 51:5
Jeremiah 13:16
Micah 7:7
Romans 5:1-5
Romans 8:20,24-25
Romans 15:4,12-13
2 Corinthians 1:10
2 Corinthians 3:12
Ephesians 1:11-12,18-23
Colossians 1:3-6,22-23,27
Colossians 3:1-2
1 Thessalonians 2:19
1 Timothy 5:5
Titus 2:11-14
Hebrews 6:11,18-19
Hebrews 7:19
Hebrews 10:23
Hebrews 11:1

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Living Hope

Do you feel like there is any hope in your life? Where is your hope? Do you place your hope in the spiritual, or physical things of this world? What are your eyes, minds and hearts continually fixed and focused on, and what do you hope for in your heart? Or do you have any hope? If you answered, Jesus Christ and the heavenly things above, and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, you are on the narrow road that leads to salvation, and everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. You have a true and living hope! If you answered the physical things of this world, including trust in man, wealth and possessions, you are on the wide road that leads to death and destruction. You are compared to a shrub in the desert, and will not see prosperity when it comes; or a blind man, who is about to fall into a deep, dark ditch. You have what is called a false and dead hope!

What is hope and how is it demonstrated? The scriptural definition of hope is "a strong and confident expectation." We stand in awe of God's majesty and supreme power. Our hope in God is demonstrated in various ways, including: 1) Our faith - We trust in God, that He will faithfully fulfill His promises to us, as recorded in His word Ro 5:1,2; Gal 5:5; Heb 11:1,6. 2) Our lifestyles - God helps us to live holy, godly and upright lives, as we eagerly await Christ's awesome return (Please read tract - 'Glorious And Imminent Return Of Jesus Christ!'). The purity of Christ must be reflected in our lives Eph 4:24; Tit 2:13; 1 Jn 3:3. 3) The Holy Spirit (also called comforter, counselor, helper and teacher) - through the power and influence of God's Holy Spirit, we allow Christ to live in us, and to lead, guide and direct us in our lives Ro 15:13. We will be focused on the heavenly things above; not on earthly things below Col 1:27; Col 3:5; 1 Pe 2:11. God gives us eternal comfort and good hope through His grace 2 Th 2:16. 4) How we use our time, talents, skills, treasures and resources in serving God with complete faithfulness, passion, devotion, dedication and commitment 1 Cor 15:58. 5) Enduring trials - Ro 12:12; 1 Pe 1:7; 1 Pe 4:12. 6) Persevering in prayer - Ro 12:12; Eph 6:18; Php 4:6; Col 4:2; 2 Ti 1:3. 7) Waiting patiently for the fulfillment of God's plan in our lives - Ps 130:5; Lam 3:24-27; Ro 8:25. 8) Steadfastness - We must continue steadfastly in the hope that we profess in God and Christ Ps 71:14; Heb 3:6; 10:23; 1 Pe 1:13.

Hope is described as: 1) Good and well-founded - 2 Th 2:16-17. 2) Living and lively - 1 Pe 1:3. 3) Sure, steadfast, safe and secure - a firm and steady anchor for our souls - He 6:19. 4) Blessed - Ti 2:13. 5) Does not disappoint us - those who hope in Christ, will never be ashamed or disappointed - Is 49:23; Ps 25:3; Ro 5:5; 10:11. 6) Triumphing over difficulties - Ro 8:31-39. 7) A helmet - 1 Th 5:8.

Origin of hope: There are two kinds of hope: true and living hope; or false and dead hope, as described in scripture. God is our only source of real hope. He is the God of hope Ps 62:5; Jer 14:22; Ro 15:13. God commands us to place our faith, hope and trust in Him. The Bible gives us strong warnings, against placing our hope in the physical things of this world, or anyone other than the Lord, as it will leave one disgraced, frustrated, confused, disappointed and ruined, and is called a false and dead hope Job 8:11-15; Ps 33:17; Pr 11:7; Jer 17:5-6. One of the three crucial elements of the Christian character is hope. Only God is our true source of real wisdom. Without God's wisdom, there is no hope. The true saints have hope in God's calling, because we have come out of the darkness; and into the marvelous light of God's presence. Only God has the power to give us a bright, happy and hopeful future in this life Jer 29:11; Eph 4:4-6. We also have hope beyond the grave, which is the hope of eternal life in the Kingdom of God. We rejoice, boast and abound in the hope of the glory of God, that fills us with joy and peace, through the power of God's Holy Spirit Ro 15:13. The scriptures teach us faith, patience, perseverance and endurance. We receive faith, encouragement and good hope Ro 15:4. We must not be moved from our steadfast hope in the holy word of God, which includes the gospel "good news" Ps 119:81; Col 1:5, 23. This is called a true and living hope Ps 146:5; Pr 10:28; 24:14; Jer 17:7-8.

False and dead hope includes trust in: 1) Idols - Cursed is anyone who makes an idol in any shape or form Dt 27:15; Ps 115:3-11; Hab 2:18-19 (Read Tract - 'No Idols!'). 2) Money and wealth - The world, and all its sinful pleasures will fade away. We are instructed not to trust in, or set our hearts on the physical things of this world, as they are temporary and uncertain Job 31:24-28; Ps 52:1-7; Pr 11:18, 28; 1 Ti 6:17; Jas 1:11; 1 Jn 2:15-17. 3) Foreign nations - Those who trust in foreign powers will be dismayed and put to shame Is 20:5. 4) Military power (including soldiers and horses used in battle, does not win the victory). Victory and deliverance comes only from God Almighty! - Ps 33:17; Pr 21:31; Isaiah 30:15-16; 31:1-3; Hos 10:13. 5) Man - Power promised from mere mortals comes to nothing Ps 146:3-7; Pr 11:7; Jer 17:5-8. 6) Wisdom of this world - does not save one from death, and is foolishness in God's sight. That is, worthless, useless, and nothing at all - Ps 94:11; Pr 21:30; Pr 24:14; 1 Cor 1:20; 3:18-23.

Who and what is our spiritual hope? God is the true source of all hope. We must always trust and hope in God - Ps 62:5. Christ is also the true source of all hope, because the complete work of salvation will be complete, at His glorious return. Therefore, we wait in eager expectation, knowing that our salvation draws near - Lk 21:28; Heb 9:28; 1 Ti 1:1-2. The glorious and imminent Return of Jesus Christ is our blessed hope - Ti 2:13. The Holy Spirit which is the power of God, causes hope to abound - Ro 15:13. The true saints will be in the first resurrection, transformed to immortal spirit beings (kings and priests), and become like Christ at His return. We will be given imperishable bodies, like Christ's glorious body - 1 Cor 15:20-23, 51-52; 1 Th 4:13-18; 1 Jn 3:2-3. We have a living hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ - 1 Pe 1:3; and of everlasting life in the Kingdom of God - Jn 3:5; Ti 1:1-3; 3:7. We hope in God's true, perfect, unfailing and steadfast love Ps 33:18; His ordinances - Ps 119:43; and the Holy Bible, which is the word of God, our source of spiritual hope Ps 119:16, 49, 74, 81, 105, 114, 147; Ro 15:4. We wait for and hope in God's teaching - Is 42:4; His salvation Ps 119:166; and redemption - Ro 8:23. Faith is the crucial saving element in our Christian lives - Heb 11:1,6. An eternal hope is also a crucial element of the Christian character, and is connected with faith and love (which is the greatest) - 1 Cor 13:7,13; Col 1:23; 2 Th 2:16-17. Faithful Christians are called to testify concerning their hope in Christ 1 Pe 3:15. Hope inspires and encourages us to holy, godly and righteous living. Our hope in Christ has a purifying power. It purifies our hearts, minds and lives - Ti 2:12-14; 1 Jn 3:3. Hope leads to patience - Ro 8:25; 1 Th 1:3; and is expressed through our diligence - Heb 6:11. One who has hope is blessed. It gives us joy and happiness - Ps 146:5; Ro 12:12. We hope in the wonder-working power of God (Holy Spirit) and righteousness - Ro 15:13; Gal 5:5; the fulfillment of God's promises - Ac 26:6-7; Tit 1:2; abundant mercy of God - 1 Pe 1:3; and God's glory - Ro 5:2; Col 1:27.

Our hope depends on: 1) Knowing the Word of God, which is sharper than any double-edged sword Ro 15:4; Col 1:5-6; Heb 4:12. 2) Knowing and resting in the surpassing and incomparable riches of God's grace Eph 2:7; 2 Th 2:16; 1 Pe 1:13. 3) The Holy Spirit of God

dwelling within us, and is powerfully at work in true and faithful Christians Ro 15:13; 2 Ti 1:7.

What is our hope in Jesus? The true saints of God ("firstfruits of salvation") have a living hope, knowing that as Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, by God's supreme mighty power, we will also be raised to eternal life in the Kingdom of God, once we are born again, at Christ's return, and have the hope of being in the first resurrection Jn 3:3; Ro 8:23; 1 Cor 15:42-54; 1 Th 1:10; 2 Th 2:13; 1 Pe 1:3, 13, 21; Rev 20:6. True saints of God will inherit the earth Ps 37; Mt 5:5.

The hope we have in Christ is active and dynamic, and brings many beautiful blessings and rewards, such as: 1) Peace and joy - Pr 10:28; Ro 12:12; 15:13. 2) Protection - Ps 25:21; 33:18. 3) Security - Job 11:18. 4) Renewal of strength - Is 40:29-31. 5) Courage and boldness in ministry - An encouragement to boldness in preaching Ps 31:24; 1 Co 15:57-58; 2 Co 3:12; 1 Ti 4:10. 6) Enduring and comforting - 1 Th 2:12; 4:13-18.

Believer's eternal hope: 1) Foundation of Christian's hope - A living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ 1 Cor 15:1-11; 1 Pe 1:3. 2) Cheers the saints - Pr 14:32. 3) Assurance of immortality - Resurrection of the righteous - Ac 24:15; 1 Cor 15:12-58. 4) Spiritual heavenly treasure - Col 1:5. 5) Saints eagerly await Christ's return - 1 Cor 1:7; Ti 2:13. 6) Compared to an anchor of the soul (sure and steadfast) - Staying power to endure trials and tribulations of this life - 1 Th 1:3; Heb 6:19-20.

What is the hope of the righteous? Joy and gladness Ps 32:11; 58:10; 68:3; Pr 29:6. Those who hope in God will never be disappointed Is 49:23. Wisdom, knowledge and understanding. The fear of the Lord is the pre-requisite for wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom from God results in long life Pr 1:7; 2:6-15; 9:10-11. It is compared to a fountain of life to one who has it Pr 18:4. Fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that departs one from the snares of death Pr 14:27. The Lord guards the paths of the just, and protects His faithful ones Pr 2:8. The upright and blameless will remain and live in the land Pr 2:21. The path of the righteous is compared to the morning sun, which shines all the more brighter, until full day light Pr 4:18. Righteousness delivers from death Pr 10:2; 11:4. Life is the reward of the righteous Pr 10:16. The righteous are granted the desires of their hearts Pr 10:24. Righteous are established forever Pr 10:25. The fear of the Lord results in security, prolonging of life, health and refreshment for the body Pr 3:7-8; 10:27; Pr 19:23. The way of the Lord is a refuge for the blameless and upright Pr 10:29. The righteous won't be uprooted Pr 10:30; 12:3. The house of the righteous will stand secure and be blessed Pr 3:33; 12:7. Righteous are compared to fruitful trees Pr 12:12. The righteous escape trouble Pr 12:13. No calamity overtakes the righteous Pr 12:21. In the path of the righteous, there is no death Pr 12:28; 15:24. Righteousness guards a person of integrity Pr 13:6. The tent of the upright will flourish Pr 14:11. The light of the righteous shines brightly and rejoices Pr 13:9. The righteous eat and are satisfied Pr 13:25. Prosperity is the reward of the righteous Pr 13:21; 21:21. The blameless and upright are safe Pr 11:21; 28:18. The blameless will receive a good inheritance Pr 28:10. The righteous will see the downfall of the wicked Pr 29:16. The integrity of the upright will guide them Pr 11:3. The righteousness of the upright delivers them Pr 11:6. Those who sow righteousness, will reap a sure reward Pr 11:18. The righteous attain life Pr 11:19; 12:28. Righteous people will flourish Pr 15:6. The Lord hears the prayer of the righteous Pr 15:29. Those who are upright avoid evil and guard their ways, which preserves their lives Pr 16:17. Reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches, honor and life Pr 10:22; 22:4. The faithful will abound with blessings Pr 28:20. The Lord shows favor to the humble Pr 3:34. Blessings crown the head of the righteous Pr 10:6. Walking in integrity, results in security Pr 10:9. The memory of the righteous is a blessing Pr 10:7. Tree of life is the fruit of the righteous Pr 11:30. The righteous will flourish like healthy green plants Pr 11:28. One who is generous, will be enriched. He that refreshes others, will himself be refreshed Pr 11:25. The Lord takes great delight in those who are blameless Pr 11:20. He who seeks good, finds goodwill, loyalty and faithfulness Pr 11:27; 14:22. The righteous obtain favor from the Lord Pr 12:12. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that leads sinners on the path of life Pr 13:14. The Lord loves those who pursue righteousness Pr 15:9. Our plans will succeed, when we commit them to the Lord Pr 16:3. Those who trust in the Lord, are happy and blessed Pr 16:20. The Name of the Lord is a strong tower, where the righteous run to for safety Pr 18:10. The Lord is our confidence Pr 3:25-26. Obeying God's commandments, results in life Pr 19:16. Walking the path of righteousness and mercy leads to life, prosperity and honor Pr 21:21. The righteous receive blessings for rebuking the wicked Pr 24:25. One who confesses and renounces his sins to God, will prosper Pr 28:13. The righteous sing and rejoice Pr 29:6. Secure is the person who trusts in the Lord Pr 29:25; 30:5. Promoting peace results in joy Pr 12:20. The wise will inherit glory Pr 3:35. The righteous are delivered from wicked lips Pr 11:9. Righteousness exalts a nation Pr 14:34. The generous who help the poor are blessed Pr 22:9.

What is the hope of the wicked? Those who are without God and without Christ, in the world, are without hope Eph 2:12. Hope in worldly possessions, will amount to nothing Jer 17:5-6, and cause disappointment and ruin Is 20:5-6; Zech 9:3-5. When the wicked die, their hope dies with them. What they anticipate comes to nothing Job 8:13; 11:7, 20; 27:8; Pr 10:28. What the wicked fears will come upon them and overtake them Pr 10:24. They are brought down by calamity, never to rise again Pr 11:5; 14:32; 24:15-16. The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked Pr 3:33. Stubborn, stiff-necked, rebellious fools will inherit shame and disgrace Pr 3:35. Their own great folly leads them astray, and they will die for lack of discipline Pr 5:22-23. Ill-gotten treasures are of no value Pr 10:2. The Lord thwarts the evil plans of the wicked Pr 10:3, and their names will rot Pr 10:7. Mind of the wicked is of low value Pr 10:20. When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are swept away Pr 10:25. Years of the wicked are cut short Pr 10:27. Way of the Lord is destruction for evildoers Pr 10:29; Pr 16:4. The Lord will make man scarcer than pure gold Is 13:12. The wicked will not remain in the land Pr 10:30. Crookedness of the treacherous destroys them Pr 11:3,6. The Lord rescues the righteous out of trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead Pr 11:8. There is great triumph when the wicked perish Pr 11:10. An entire city is overthrown and destroyed, by the mouth of the wicked Pr 11:11. Wealth is worthless in the day of God's wrath Pr 11:4. The wickedness of the wicked, makes them fall Pr 11:5. Wicked man earns deceitful wages Pr 11:18. Whoever pursues evil finds death Pr 11:19. Those with crooked minds and perverse hearts are detestable to the Lord Pr 11:20, and they will fall into the pit Pr 28:18. Wicked will be punished Pr 11:21. Hope of the wicked ends in wrath Pr 11:23. Whoever searches for evil, will find it Pr 11:27. Whoever trusts in his riches, will wither and fall Pr 11:28. Fool will be servant to the wise Pr 11:29. The dead in the grave have lost their hope Is 38:18-19. Wicked and treacherous will be cut off from the land Pr 2:22. Way of the wicked is compared to deep darkness; they don't know what causes them to stumble Pr 4:19. The wicked earn sin and death Pr 10:16. The Lord condemns those who devise wicked schemes Pr 12:2. A man will not be established by wickedness Pr 12:3. The wicked will be overthrown and cease to exist