

Bridgeway Community Church
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iHope

Filling Up Your Hope Tank

What does hope stand for?

H.oly
O.ptimism (based on)
P.ositive
E.xpectations

“Just like your car needs fuel so does your spirit need hope. Your hope tank must be filled continually and in a world where our hope is being pulled on and challenged and summoned day in and day out, God gives us an endless supply of hope.”

Last week: When all hope is gone, the God of hope is not.

Many people to the WRONG PLACE to try to get their hope tank filled.

- food, money, drugs, alcohol, sex, porn, immoral living, relationship to relationship

So where do we get our HOPE?

- only one place: Jesus

“Jesus can fill up your hope tank with an eternal, lasting...fulfilling and meaningful life that has you looking toward the future knowing that everything is going to be okay.”

Why don't we go to Jesus to fill our hope tank?

- a lack of faith

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

You have to have faith in something/someone where hope comes from.

The Hope that Jesus gives has the POWER TO:

- 1. FIGHT YOUR SPIRITUAL BATTLES**
- 2. FORTIFY YOUR INTERNAL CONSTITUTION**
- 3. FILL YOUR HEART WITH ETERNAL ENCOURAGEMENT**

“These are three things that the Jesus kind of hope has the power to do for you and the power to give you.”

THE POWER TO FIGHT YOUR BATTLES

“How does hope help me fight my battles?”

As long as you have hope you still have fight in you

When someone wants to defeat you, first they want to demoralize you

If you have no hope left, you have no fight left

“One of the things that a Jesus hope does is it empowers us to fight the spiritual battles that come our way.”

Ephesians 6:17

Take **the helmet of salvation** and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9

But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and **the hope of salvation as a helmet.** ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The only way to have help true hope is through the salvation of Jesus Christ. v. 9

John 3:16

[Jesus speaking] For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

“Salvation in Jesus is not just rescuing you from death but it’s also giving you the hope of eternal life. If Jesus would’ve just had mercy on me to save me from hell, that’d be enough. But he also guarantees heaven and that’s where the hope comes from. Not just the salvation of what I don’t get, but the coming future glorification of what I do get!”

Colossians 1:27

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

“Jesus is your hope station...turn to Jesus!”

THE POWER TO FORTIFY YOUR INTERNAL CONSTITUTION

- it strengthens our inner man/woman¹

“Once something that tries to penetrate your spirit that’s negative, you need your ‘hope wall’ to immediately pop up and say, ‘Nope! You can’t get passed this barrier of hope. I can’t let this nonsense and this negativity into my life.’”

“Unless it is filtered and squares with the word of God, it can’t get through.”

“Some of you need your ‘hope wall’ back! You’re letting foolishness into your spirit and it’s ruining your soul. It’s ruining your attitude. It’s eating away at your heart. It’s damaging the very soul of faith that’s resident within you.”

¹ Ephesians 3:16, I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being

THE POWER TO FILL YOUR HEART WITH ETERNAL ENCOURAGEMENT

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

“The Thessalonians believed they’d missed the rapture...and...they’d been left behind and so Paul is writing to them to say...not only have you NOT been left behind, I want you to encourage one another, to remind each other that you’ve NOT been appointed to suffer wrath...you are saved and sealed and will be sanctified and glorified to the glory of God...so encourage one another with these words.”

“We gotta remind one another that this world is not all there is.”

“The ultimate attraction of heaven is not all of them that we love, but the one who loved us so much that he saved them and he saves us.”

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name

Oh Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand²

John 14:2-3

[Jesus speaking] In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**

² Lyrics from the hymn “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand.”
<http://www.songlyrics.com/michael-card/on-christ-the-solid-rock-i-stand-lyrics/>

2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV

We are confident, / say, and willing rather to be **absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ **We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.**

¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together **with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ **Therefore encourage each other with these words.**

“Hope encourages us. Hope reminds us. Hope fills our hearts with eternal encouragement...we need to remind each other that this world isn't all there is”

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Romans 8:18

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.