



What we expect to happen to us in the future greatly affects the way we feel about the present. It affects our attitude and influences our choices. Unfortunately for many people, hope is nothing more than wishful thinking. It is not dependable and has no power to bring anything to pass. This ultimately leads to despair and hopelessness.

To have Biblical hope is to have a sure anchor in Christ, who IS our Hope (Hebrews 6:13-20). Because of this, believers are able to base their joy and confidence upon God's Promises concerning the future even when circumstances dictate the contrary. This sense of joy is called HOPE.

1. Hope is the confident expectation that God has promised a heavenly future and this hope will carry us through any adversity. (1 Peter 1:3-9)
 - Hope strengthens our resolve in the face of difficulties. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
2. Hope transforms the very meaning of life. (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10)
3. Hope calms our fear of death. (John 5:24-29; 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Romans 5:5 Such hope (in God's promises) never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Determination is a key factor in maintaining hope

There are many examples of people who were determined to keep their own hope alive! One example is the woman and the issue of blood in Mark 5:25-34. She was determined not to let hope slip away. Even though she was unclean in every way and was not allowed social freedom, she pressed in and was healed! This uncompromising intensity is required for believers to emerge from this season victoriously.

