

Exploring Future Hope

- **Day One. Resting in hope**

Read Matthew 8:23-26; Hebrews 6:19-20

Why do you think that Jesus was able to rest during the storm at sea while his disciples were terrified? Reflect on his challenge to practice “faith not fear.” What are some of the “storms” you are facing right now? How could having faith in Jesus be like holding onto an anchor in that storm?

Pray. Ask God to give you inner peace in the midst of your current “storms.”

- **Day Two. Rejoicing in hope**

Read 1Peter 1:3; Isaiah 61:1, 3

God is able to take what was intended for evil and redeem it for good. He can exchange “beauty for ashes.” Can you identify a situation in your life that was hurtful or wrong, but that God was able to redeem in some way? How does that previous experience give you hope for the future, even if it has difficulties?

Pray. Ask God to help you see how he’s been able to bring good even out of the “bad things” in your past.

- **Day Three. Anticipating hope**

Read Titus 2:11-13; Romans 8:18; 2Corinthians 4:17

God has promised us a “bright” future because it is filled with glory. In some ways it is the sunrise *after* the storm. How does the promise that “the sun will come out tomorrow” help a person make it through? How does “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” help you make it through?

Pray. When you are facing difficulties, ask God to help you to see that it will not always be this way. Ask him to give you “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.”

New Life Lessons
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Pastor Dave Vasquez

Finding Hope for the Future

Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) ¹¹ “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

How do we find hope for the future?

1. Rest in your anchored hope.

Hebrews 6:19-20 (NIV) ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever...

WE HAVE AN ANCHOR

Words: Priscilla J. Owens, 1882. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Stedfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.

2. Rejoice in your living hope.

1Peter 1:3 (NIV) ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

Psalms 130:7 (NIV) ³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

1Corinthians 15:37 (NIV) ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body... ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

Genesis 50:20 (NIV) ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Genesis 45:1-8

Isaiah 61:1, 3 (NIV) ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me... ³ to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

beauty for ashes | gladness for mourning | praise for despair

HE SAID, “BE STILL”

Helen Frazee-Bower, *Garment of Praise*, (Boston: Bruce Humphries, 1956), p. 39

He said, “Be still”; and I was very still —
No more a part of all life's fret and rush,
But laid aside, immobilized; until
The heavy hours lengthened to a hush
Of dreary days that closed on emptiness.
How could the spirit, vigilant though it be,
Exchange the challenges of storm and stress,
For solitude and inactivity?

Then I remembered that He said, “Be still,
And know that I am God” — and all was changed:
The knowledge of His presence came to fill
Each idle moment. I was not estranged
In some far country, unfamiliar, grim.
Shut out from things . . . I was shut in with Him.

3. Anticipate your blessed hope.

Titus 2:11-13 (NIV) ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:30

Colossians 3:4 (NIV) ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 1:27

Psalms 97:6 (NIV) ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Romans 8:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 2Corinthians 4:17

Philippians 3:21 (NIV) ²¹ ...who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Ephesians 1:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

Romans 8:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Revelation 21:4 (NIV) 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 15:13 (NIV) 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.