

HOPE: ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

The purpose of an anchor is to hold a position, to keep from drifting. A spiritual anchor helps one maintain his or her position in Christ; preventing “drifting” away from the Lord.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4

DEFINITION OF HOPE

Hope: desire accompanied by some confident expectation.
It is more than wishful thinking (which lacks reasonable expectation).

NEED OF HOPE

Hope as an anchor is necessary because Christians are beset by the storms of life.

Heb.11:1 gives a *description*, not a *definition*, of faith.

Faith supports (is the foundation of) what is believed.

Faith gives assurance of the existence of things not seen.

Mankind needs a reason to persevere with patience.

Hope produces the motivation to live so as to receive the promise. Rom.8:24-25

Hope provides the spiritual security needed in a changing world.

“Without hope”—a sad commentary. Eph.2:12

The soul will despair without hope. Job.7:6

HOPE MUST HAVE A FIRM BASIS

Hope based on traditions is not secure.

Hope based on things of this life will disappoint. 1Ti.6:17

Hope based on a “late development” (or second chance) is sheer folly.

Hope needs a *substantial, unchanging, everlasting* basis.

God’s character and promise support our hope. Heb.6:13-20

God’s oath and promise given to Abraham as assurance.

Our hope is in Jesus (who also is reliable.) Heb.13:8; 2Co.1:8-10

STORMS THAT ASSAIL

Tides of persecution. 2Ti.3:12

Persecutions rise and fall; gain momentum then wane.

Steven killed. Act.7

The church had rest after Saul’s ravaging of the church. Act.9:31

James, Peter suffered persecution. Act.12:1-4

The church grew and spread among the Gentiles.

Waves of doubt. Tossed to and fro. Rom.14:23, Jde.22

Doubt that one can live as a Christian.

Doubt the worth of being a Christian.

Doubt the Lord’s deliverance. Jam.1:6

Doubt the power of prayer.

Winds of worldliness.

Worldly trends can blow one off course. 1Jo.2:15-17

Lust. The world hawks its wares. 1Ti.6:9-10

Seasons of distress, adversity.

Poor health. Phi.2:25-27

Poor economic and cultural environment. 2Co.8:1-5

Overpowering domestic problems. Luk.12:53; 1Co.7:26,29-30

Church problems: false teachers, unruly members, poor leadership, self-serving leaders.

2Ti.2:8. 3Jo.1:9-10

WEATHERING THE STORMS

Maintain humility of mind.

Humility prevents one from steering into troubled waters.

Remember your former condition. Eph.2:11-12

Recall "purification." 2Pe.1:9

"Pride goes destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling." Pro.16:18

Maintain a stable faith. Jam.1:6-8, Col.2:5

Keep it "ship-shape" by actively doing His will daily. Jam.2:22

Be a working part of the body of believers. Eph.4:14-16

Be wise concerning the purpose of testing. Jam.1:3

The storms can destroy faith or make it stronger.

Maintain love.

Never lose heart in the storms of life. Luk.18:1, 2Co.4:16

Always love the Lord. Eph.5:1-2

Maintain a love of the brethren. 1Jo.3:14

Have an enlarged heart—willing to rescue those overboard. Col.4:18, Gal.6:9-10

Maintain hope.

As Paul did aboard the ship during a storm—as Lord promised.

"Christ in you ... hope of glory." Col.1:27

One must maintain faith and hope until the end. Heb.2:1-4

"Hope of eternal life." Tit.3:7

Those who let their anchor drift while waiting, lose out. 1Ti.1:19

HOPE IS NECESSARY BECAUSE FULFILLMENT NOT IMMINENT

Abraham waited 25 years for a son. Rom.4:18

He waited another 60 years for a grandson. Gen.25:26

Our salvation doesn't come shortly after conversion. Rom.8:24-25

1Pe.1:3 *"born again unto a living hope."*

We become heirs of the promise. *"...reserved in heaven for you"* 1Pe.1:4; Rom.5:1-10

GOD IS AWARE OF OUR FAITH AND ACTIVITY WHILE WAITING

Jesus knows what it's like to be tempted. Heb.2:18

Jesus knows what it's like to work patiently toward the goal. Luk.13:32-33

Jesus knows the inward struggles we encounter. Heb.4:12

WHILE WAITING FOR THE CONSUMMATION OF HOPE: 'PRESS ON TO MATURITY'

Having begun, work toward the goal. Heb.6:1-3

The goal may distant and difficult, but reachable.

Our toil is not in vain. 1Co.15:58

Hold fast to hope. Heb.10:23

The Lord is always the same—a sure anchor for the soul. Heb.13:8