

What you EXPECT and what you BELIEVE about your future WILL BE the PRIMARY FACTOR in how you live out your calling in this season of life.

“Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.”

—Dr. John Maxwell

Ordinary Hope vs. Theological Hope

1 Peter 1:3

FOUR CHALLENGES OF HOPE:

1. Hope comes in the midst of obstacles

- *“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

—Romans 5:3

2. Hope is active waiting

- [Psalm 130:5-8](#)

There's a difference between passive hope and active hope.

“Don't let your wait become your weight, but let your wait become your worth. You are becoming a person of character. The greatest people I know are those who have developed character.”

—Bishop Alfred Owens

- [Psalm 30:5](#) , [Revelation 21:4](#)

“Hope is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it. That is not hoping in God but bullying God. “I pray to GOD-my life a prayer-and wait for what he'll say and do. My life's on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning, waiting and watching till morning.”

—Eugene Peterson

3. Jesus is the object of our hope

Sometimes we need to stop and remember to call to mind not just WHAT we are hoping for, BUT WHO OUR HOPE IS IN and how faithful He is.

Counterfeit Gods - Pastor Tim Keller

Power: a longing for influence or recognition

- Control: a longing to have everything go according to my plan
- Comfort: a longing for pleasure
- Approval: a longing to be accepted or desired

[1 Peter 1:3](#), [Hebrews 10:23](#), [Romans 5:2](#)

4. Hope is not just for you.

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.”

—[2 Corinthians 2:14](#)

- **Reflection Questions:**

Where have you placed your hope?

- Where have you lost hope?
- With whom do you need to share hope?

A PRAYER to PRAY: Our Father in Heaven we know that You are the hope that cannot be found anywhere else. Help us to see that hope every day and to be a vessel that holds and allows it to overflow to all those around us. Let us learn from examples such as Autumn’s that it isn’t about our situation that gives us hope. It is a choice to be hopeful and to choose hope. We have the opportunity to make this choice every single morning and renew it every single night. Let us choose hope and share it with those around us, whether they are family, friends, or strangers we are the ones that can bring hope to them. All this we pray in Jesus’ name amen

For more info about following Jesus, go to ncc.re/followJesus

PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT: TRUTH: Hope is the joyful expectation of God’s goodness

- **HIS NAME:** Greek: Theo Elpis - God is our hope
- **MEMORY VERSE:** [Hebrews 6:19](#) “We have this Hope as an anchor for our souls.”

- **DAILY DECLARATION:** Jesus you are the primary source of my hope. I will put my hope in You alone. I will not defer my hope to anything I long for.
- **WEEKLY ACTIVATION:** Be a *broker* of hope. Find one person to share your hope with. Brokering hope is celebrating with joy before the answer comes; trusting in God's goodness at work in a person's life.