



FROM: THE DESK OF PASTOR CARUANA
TO: The People of Zion
DATE: August 19, 2020

HOPE

*“There is no medicine like hope,
no incentive so great, and no tonic
so powerful as expectation of
something better tomorrow.”*

-- Orison Marden

Contrary to what most people believe, hope is not another name for wishful thinking. Hope is a spiritual force defined as confident trust in God, knowing that he will see you through. When trouble comes, it's good to be diligent and seek wise counsel and to do all you know to do, but never put all your hope in a person or this world's system. You can't put your hope in other people, a doctor, an attorney, or in your own ability. You can't put your hope in a company, political party, or the economy. All those things can change in the blink of an eye.

Instead, put your hope in someone who will never waver or change. The odds may be stacked against you, and failure and defeat may seem imminent, but take heart! Even after you have exhausted all other options, hope is still alive – his name is Jesus! There is not a surer thing in all the universe than putting your confidence and trust in Jesus. Your whole world could come crashing down around you, and he will still be there to sustain you and take care of you.

He'll shelter you in the storms of life – not just to escape them and hide, but to gain strength and renew your hope. He will sustain you in the middle of life's greatest difficulties. He will give you patience to endure, strength to persevere, and courage to overcome whatever challenges you may be facing. He'll make a way when there seems to be no way out. What's impossible with man is possible with our Lord and Savior.

Always put your hope in Jesus!



Let us pray.

Lord, we ask you to help us not lose hope. Help us to focus on you and your word and not on the challenges or circumstances in our life. We choose to put our confidence in you and not in this world's system or the wisdom of humankind. We trust you, Lord, to sustain us and lift us up.

We know you love us, and you will never abandon us to face our problems alone. You are our refuge and our shelter from the storms of this life. As we study and meditate on the promises in your Word, we thank you that our hearts are encouraged and our souls are refreshed. We find renewed hope and comfort in your presence. Amen.



Scripture Passages on Hope

- Psalm 147:11 No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.
- Romans 12:11-12 Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying.
- Psalm 27:14 Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.
- 1 Peter 121 Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.



Quotation on Hope

“A Christian will part with anything other than his hope; he knows that hope will keep the heart both from aching and breaking, from fainting and sinking; he knows that hope is a beam of God, a spark of glory, and that nothing shall extinguish it till the soul is filled with glory.”

-- Thomas Brooks

May you be filled with hope
throughout your life.

†In peace ...

Pastor Barb