

HOPE ROOTED IN JESUS

How does God actually strengthen us? What role do we play in seeing the lives of those around us being strengthened? Does HOPE play a part in the process of being strengthened by God?

Tonight, we're going after a clearer understanding of how strengthening happens. We want to better position ourselves to cooperate with God and participate in the process.

Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad?
I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!
(Psa 42:5–6 NLT-SE)

“Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”
(Jer 17:7–8 NLT-SE)

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.
(Eph 3:16–18 NLT-SE)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
(Col 2:6–7 NLT-SE)

HOPE...The active, confident expectation of good based upon the character of God.

- **God is strengthening** individuals, families, and congregations. What is *our role* in seeing HOPE restored?
 - Pointing people to Jesus as the **definition** of hope.
 - Pointing people to Jesus as the **source** of all hope.
- **Jesus, the Definition of HOPE?**
 - **Cultural HOPE:** The best the world has to offer when it comes to HOPE is not much more than "wishful thinking."
 - "I hope I get this new job."

- "I hope these people follow through with their promise.
- "I hope..." With the emphasis on "I". This hope is rooted in fate and our ability to hang on (persevere) until it, hopefully, comes to pass.
- **Biblical HOPE:** The active, confident expectation of good based upon the character of God.
 - Those who have HOPE have a ***firm assurance*** regarding things that are unclear and unknown.
 - Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see...It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith. (Heb 11:1, 7 NLT-SE)
 - Without HOPE, ***life*** loses its meaning and in ***death*** there is no HOPE.
 - "My days fly faster than a weaver's shuttle. They end without hope. (Job 7:6 NLT-SE)
 - For the dead cannot praise you; they cannot raise their voices in praise. Those who go down to the grave can no longer hope in your faithfulness. (Is 38:18 NLT-SE)
 - Christ followers who trust or put their HOPE in God ***will be helped***, and they will not be confounded, put to shame, or disappointed.
 - Kings and queens will serve you and care for all your needs. They will bow to the earth before you and lick the dust from your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD. Those who trust in me will never be put to shame." (Is 49:23 NLT-SE)
 - Disciples of Jesus, who have placed their HOPE in God, have an ***active confidence*** in God's protection and help and are free from fear and anxiety.
 - For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11 NLT-SE)
- **HOPE described in the Word:**
 - **HOPE during preparation...**"Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our **HOPE** (*The active, confident expectation of good based upon the character of God.*) is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers. (1 Tim 4:8–10 NLT-SE)
 - **HOPE creates an atmosphere for right living...**For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with **HOPE** (*The active, confident expectation of good based upon the character of God.*) to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. (Titus 2:11–13 NLT-SE)
 - **Jesus has given us a better HOPE...**Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless. For the law never made anything perfect. But now we

have confidence in a better **HOPE** (*The active, confident expectation of good based upon the character of God.*), through which we draw near to God. (Heb 7:18–19 NLT-SE)

- **Jesus, the Source of all HOPE?**

- Where can someone go to **find HOPE?**
 - The testimony of the **Bible**.
 - Our HOPE is in God and these this is where we find the words he chose to reveal His character, His will, and His promises to His people.
 - The word “HOPE” is not found in the book of Revelation. Why? What we HOPED for has now become a reality!
 - The testimony of **nature**.
 - When we see the seasons change, **nature is painting a picture** of what hope looks like.
 - My lover said to me, “Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one! Look, **the winter is past**, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, **the season of singing birds has come**, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air. The fig trees are forming young fruit, and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming. Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one!” (Song 2:10–13 NLT-SE)
 - The testimony of **friends and family** and our own **past personal testimony**.
 - In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, **he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.** (1 Pet 5:10 NLT-SE)
- The true definition of biblical HOPE has **Jesus at the center**.
 - He is an **anchor** to our souls.
 - This **hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls**. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. (Heb 6:19 NLT-SE)
 - He is the **promise** of eternal life.
 - We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. For even Christ didn’t live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, “The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me.” Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures **give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.** (Rom 15:2–4 NLT-SE)
 - He is the **soil** we sink our roots into.
 - And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. **Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.** Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. (Col 2:6–7 NLT-SE)