

HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

When lives are bogged down with defeat and despair, only the hope that comes through a relationship with our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ can bring about true happiness. God's Word testifies to His ability to carry us through the difficult times.

Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid of them! For the Lord your God will be with you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 TLB

All who are oppressed may come to him. He is a refuge for them in their times of trouble. All those who know your mercy, Lord, will count on you for help. For you have never yet forsaken those who trust in you.

Psalms 9:9-10

He is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trusted in him, and he helped me. Joy rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to him. The Lord protects his people and gives victory to his anointed king.

Psalms 28:7-8 TLB

Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again. Yes, I shall again praise him for his help.

Psalms 42:5 TLB

When I pray, you answer me and encourage me by giving me the strength I need. *Psalms 138:3 TLB*

Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will bring me safely through them. You will clench your fist against my angry enemies! Your power will save me. The Lord will work out his plans for my life--for your loving-kindness, Lord, continues forever. Don't abandon me--for you made me.

Psalms 138:7-8 TLB

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." *Jeremiah 29:11 TLB*

We are saved by trusting. And trusting means looking forward to getting something we don't yet have--for a man who already has something doesn't need to hope and trust that he will get it. But if we must keep trusting God for something that hasn't happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and confidently. *Romans 8:24-25 TLB*

These things that were written in the Scriptures so long ago are to teach us patience and to encourage us so that we will look forward expectantly to the time when God will conquer sin and death. *Romans 15:4 TLB*

So I pray for you Gentiles that God who gives you hope will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. I pray that God will help you overflow with hope in him through the Holy Spirit's power within you. *Romans 15:13 TLB*

You can be sure that the more we undergo sufferings for Christ, the more he will shower us with his comfort and encouragement. *2 Corinthians 1:5 TLB*

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can see something of the future he has called you to share. I want you to realize that God has been made rich because we who are Christ's have been given to him! *Ephesians 1:18 TLB*

And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns. *Philippians 1:6 TLB*

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting comfort and hope, which we don't deserve, comfort your hearts with all comfort, and help you in every good thing you say and do. *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 TLB*

All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3 TLB*