

April 2, 2021

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31.

Hope is a mysterious word. Four small letters that convey a grand and powerful picture of what the human soul longs for and one that can only be realized with the passage of time. It is built into the DNA of man, we were created to hope and we hope for everything! I hope it rains. I hope it doesn't rain. I hope I get an A on my test. I hope my friend forgives me. I hope this pandemic ends. These hopes all share a common theme – they envision something better. A better or more fulfilled or successful future.

This hope for 'something better' can also be a spiritual driver, powering individuals through tough times. When a person loses the ability to hope for better, the terrible darkness of depression can set in, leaving one feeling trapped and dying.

This is why the apostle Paul gave numerous instructions to hope. My favorite is found in Romans 12:12 where he writes: *Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.* The hope for every Christian was realized in Christ's sacrifice, and we have an eternal destination and future with the Son of God. It is because of this hope that we are able to endure the suffering that pollutes the earth, and persist through prayer to remain connected to Jesus.

Hope is the God-ordained fuel to help us endure, so we should actively pursue ways to foster hope. Rejoicing is one way to foster hope. Praising God is another way to foster hope. Trusting in all circumstances is yet another method to foster hope. If you ever experience moments where it feels as if all hope is slipping away, reach out to those around you for encouragement. Reach up to Jesus for strength. He knows that we all need hope, and He instructed us to seek it in Him.

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:23*

But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me. Micah 7:7