TOPIC PRINTABLE

Hope

Hope in Scripture is rooted in God's faithfulness, not in how things look.

ROMANS 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul calls God "the God of hope" and prays that hope will overflow — hope as a gift that grows, not a mood to produce.

LAMENTATIONS 3:21–24

This I recall to my mind; therefore I have hope. It is because of the LORD's loving kindnesses that we are not consumed, because His mercies don't fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul. "Therefore I will hope in Him."

Written amid the ruins of Jerusalem: the writer chooses to remember God's steadfast love, new every morning. Hope here is a decision made in grief.

ROMANS 5:3–5

Not only this, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope doesn't disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Paul traces a path from suffering to endurance to character to hope, and says this hope "doesn't disappoint."

ISAIAH 40:31

but those who wait for the LORD will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run, and not be weary. They will walk, and not faint.

Those who wait for the LORD renew their strength — waiting is active trust.

PSALM 42:11

Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God! For I shall still praise Him, the saving help of my countenance, and my God.

The psalmist argues with his own despair and tells himself to hope in God. Hope is spoken in the middle of the struggle, not after it.

ROMANS 8:24–25

For we were saved in hope, but hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for that which he sees? But if we hope for that which we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

Hope by definition is for what is not yet seen; Paul connects it to patient waiting.

HEBREWS 6:19

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil,

Hope as an anchor — steadying, not removing, the storm.

1 PETER 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

The Christian hope is "living" because it rests on the resurrection of Jesus.

PSALM 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

God as refuge and strength: a song of confidence when the earth itself seems to give way.