

“Hope in Unusual Places” 1 Peter 1:3-12

Even in the midst of difficulty and trial, the people of God possess hope in the future. This certain and eager expectation in the future reorients their perspective and experience in the present such that worship and joy become possible even in difficulty.

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.”

—1 Peter 4:12

I. Hope Enables Worship (1:3-5)

“A person can live forty days without food, three days without water, twelve minutes without air, and one second without hope. Hope is so close to the core of all that makes us human that when we lose it we lose something of our very selves ... Let me put it as baldly as I can: there is nothing, repeat nothing, more critical for any one of us, young or old or anything in between, than the vitality of our hope.”
—Lewis Smedes in *Standing on the Promises*

“Hope is our certain and eager expectation of an unseen future.”
“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast.”
—Hebrews 6:19

“For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?”
—Romans 8:24

II. Hope enables joy (1:6-9)

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”
—1 Peter 5:10

“For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”
—2 Corinthians 4:17

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”
—James 1:2-3

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
—Matthew 5:12

III. Hope is so great (1:10-12)

“For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”
—Matthew 13:17