

Memory Verses: Romans 5:3-4 NIV

³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Review: character

Today's word: **hope**

What is the opposite of hope? Despair, Disbelief, and Hopelessness.

Hope is a word of optimism.

Often times, we find ourselves in a moment of despair and hopelessness when we are going through difficult and painful experiences. These things can lead to despair. They can also lead to depression. Unfortunately, hopelessness can lead to despair.

Hope Motivational Video....

What did we see and hear?

In 1993, the Reverend Jesse Jackson sought the Democratic nomination for President of the US. Rev. Jesse Jackson ran on the platform of hope. His slogan was "Keep Hope Alive"

Senator Obama's first published book was entitled, "*The Audacity of Hope.*"

Both men wanted to inspire and encourage hopeless people to "hang on" during tough times in America. Senator Obama had hope! He wanted America to hold on to their dreams. Three months later he announced his candidacy for POTUS.

What is hope?

We have to understand hope for the believer is not only a hope that something good will happen, but it also expects something to happen. The key words are **desire** and **expect**.

Do you see how faith and hope connect? Read Hebrews 11:1...emphasis on hoped for....

Read Romans 4:22.

Paul speaks of Abraham's faith. The Bible declared his faith was credited to him as righteousness. Look at verse 21. Abraham was fully convinced that what he hoped for God was going to do!

Take a close look at verse 18 printed below.

"Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping--believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" NLT

As we would see it there was no reason to hope. The odds were stacked against him. Here's what he faced:

- Abraham was too old to have a child.
- His wife was barren and old as well.
- Age and time.

What hopeless situation are you facing?

Notice the Bible says Abraham believed or Abraham kept hoping. What so often causes us to lose hope?

Where did Abraham get this kind of confidence? His confidence came from his hope in the Word of God. He was standing on the promises of God. Abraham believed God would do what He said He would do!

Write Romans 15:13 here.

Hope in action... (faith and hope)

Read Mark 5:21-34

Our theme has been based on suffering. This woman was well acquainted with suffering. Think of her current state. She was in a debilitating state. She was embarrassed and she was no doubt impoverished. Her funds were depleted. Yet, she still had hope!

What was her hope?

Who else comes on the scene expecting a miracle and is also trying to get Jesus' ear?

Why did she go from the beginning? Someone told her about Jesus. Someone gave her hope.

Read Luke 24:13-35

Why were these two men hopeless and discouraged?

They were aware of the sufferings of Jesus and the news of His crucifixion. What verse tells you of what they had expected of Him?

Why do we find ourselves disappointed when He doesn't do what we expect of Him?

What gave them hope?

How does this story give us hope?

Review: suffering, perseverance, character and hope