

Is There Hope?

BY RICK
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You can survive a couple of months without food, several days without water, and less than 10 minutes without oxygen. But you can't last a single second without hope. Hope is essential. When hope is gone, it can feel like life is over.

In 1927 an American submarine collided with a Coast Guard vessel off the coast of Provincetown, Mass., and began to sink. The Coast Guard and Navy sent divers to assess the damage and begin a rescue operation. As the divers got close to the submarine, they heard a sailor tapping on the hull in Morse code. He asked, "Is there hope?"

That's a fundamental question of life. It's asked every day by countless people in countless ways: when sitting in the doctor's office awaiting test results, when a couple puts months into counseling and gets nowhere, when dealing with a tax accountant in bankruptcy court, or when parents are supporting a struggling child. When you feel surrounded by darkness, you want to know if the light will shine on you eventually.

People look for hope in all kinds of places—in relationships, in self-help books, in religion, and in self-righteousness.

But real hope is found only by turning to God: *"May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Romans 15:13 GW).

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ—once for salvation but also every day of your life—you'll find not just the power to keep moving forward and believe in God's promises. You'll also have the joy that comes from knowing and following Jesus and trusting in his good plan for you—and that will give you hope!

As you believe in faith today for God to keep working in you and your circumstances, say to him,

Father, you have promised that everything I experience can be redeemed and used for your purposes. I trust in you to walk with me through it and use it for my growth and your glory.



We have put
our hope in the
living God,
who is the
Savior
of all people.

1 Timothy 4:10 NIV



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 NIV

The Lord
delights in those
who fear him,
who put their
hope in his
unfailing love.

Psalms 147:11 NIV



Israel, put your
hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is
unfailing love
and with him is
full redemption.

Psalms 130:7 NIV



Guide me in your
truth and teach me,
for you are
God my Savior,
and my hope is in
you all day long.

Psalms 25:5 NIV



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 NIV



Hope happens by choice, not by chance. Where are you choosing to place your hope?