

HOW BEING ANCHORED TO GOD'S WORD IS THE KEY TO HOPE

The Key to Hope
Rick Warren

"It is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:18-19 (NIV)

"My soul is weak from waiting for you to save me. My hope is based on your word." Psalm 119:81 (GW)

"Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth." Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)

"A doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind." James 1:6 (TLB)

3 INTERNAL DOUBTS THAT CAUSE HOPELESSNESS

- When your Identity is *unclear*
- When your Purpose is *undefined*
- When your Future is *uncertain*

HOW TO LIVE WITH HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

1. ANCHOR MY IDENTITY TO _____

"From one human being he created all races of people. . . . He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us . . . 'In him we live and move and exist.'" Acts 17:26-28 (GNT)

"We know that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own." 1 Thessalonians 1:4 (GNT)

God Says: I Am Valuable (Deuteronomy 7:6), Acceptable (Titus 3:7), Chosen (Ephesians 1:4), Loved and Loveable (Jeremiah 31:3), Forgiven (Romans 8:1), Capable (2 Corinthians 3:5-6), Worth Dying for (Romans 5:8), Unforgettable (Isaiah 49:16)

"May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ." 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)

2. ANCHOR MY LIFE MISSION TO _____

"David served God's purposes in his own time, and then he died." Acts 13:36 (GNT)

Paul: *"I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)*

"They asked Jesus, 'Lord, are you now going to give the kingdom back to Israel?' Jesus said to them, 'The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.'" Acts 1:6-8 (NCV)

"The apostles had a single purpose as they devoted themselves to prayer. They were joined by some women." Acts 1:14 (GW)

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." Acts 2:17-18 (NIV)

3. ANCHOR MY FUTURE TO _____

Peter (quoting David): *"The Lord always before my face, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. . . . My flesh will also rest in hope, because you will not leave my soul in Hades." Acts 2:25–27 (PHILLIPS)*

Paul: *"I have the same hope in God that they have—the hope that all people, good and bad, will surely be raised from the dead." Acts 24:15 (NCV)*

"We want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (GNT)

"We should wear faith and love as a breastplate to protect us, and the hope of salvation should be our helmet." 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NCV)

Acts 27: Story of Paul's Shipwreck

"For a number of days we couldn't see the sun or the stars. The storm wouldn't let up. It was so severe that we finally began to lose any hope of coming out of it alive." Acts 27:20 (GW)

A BLESSING FOR YOU

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father encourage you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. God loved us, and through his grace he gave us a good hope and encouragement that continues forever."

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (NCV)



WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?

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"We must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that just won't let go. And we must be determined to run the race that is ahead of us."

Hebrews 12:1 (CEV)

TO RUN YOUR RACE THIS YEAR . . .

1. YOU MUST LET GO OF YOUR _____

"Worry weighs a person down." Proverbs 12:25 (NLT)

"Let go of your concerns! Then you will know that I am God. I rule the nations. I rule the earth." Psalm 46:10 (GW)

"I am worn out by my worries." Psalm 55:2 (GNT)

"My awful worries keep growing." Psalm 25:17 (CEV)

"Will your worries add a single moment to your life?" Matthew 6:27 (TLB)

"Give your worries to the Lord, and he will take care of you." Psalm 55:22 (NCV)

HOW? _____

"Instead of worrying, pray. Let your petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness . . . will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life." Philipians 4:6-7 (MSG)

2. YOU MUST LET GO OF YOUR _____

"My heart is wounded within me." Psalm 109:22 (NIV)

"Let go of anger, and leave rage behind. Do not be preoccupied. It only leads to evil." Psalm 37:8 (GW)

"You are only hurting yourself with your anger." Job 18:4 (GNT)

HOW? _____

"Get rid of all bitterness. . . . No more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead . . . forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ."

Ephesians 4:31-32 (GNT)

"He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." Psalm 147:3 (NCV)

3. YOU MUST LET GO OF YOUR _____

"Your wrongs have separated you from your God, and your sins have made him hide his face so that he doesn't hear you." Isaiah 59:2 (GW)

"When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long." Psalm 32:3 (NLT)

"I know about my wrongs, and I can't forget my sin." Psalm 51:3 (NCV)

HOW? _____

"If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins . . . cleanse us from all the wrongs we have done." 1 John 1:9 (NCV)

"God, be merciful to me because you are loving . . . wipe out all my wrongs. Wash away all my guilt and make me clean again." Psalm 51:1-2 (NCV)

"You will forgive them and put them away; you will wipe out all the wrongs I have done." Job 14:17 (GNT)

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HOW TO FINISH WELL

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"Let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us."
Hebrews 12:1 (NLT)

"I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." 2 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

THE SECRETS OF FINISHING WELL

2 Corinthians 4:2-18

1. REFUSE

"We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don't maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don't twist God's Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open, the whole truth on display."
2 Corinthians 4:2 (MSG)

"The integrity of the honest keeps them on track." Proverbs 11:3 (MSG)

2. RESOLVE

"Proud people will be ruined, but the humble will be honored."
Proverbs 18:12 (NCV)

"We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us."
2 Corinthians 4:7 (MSG)

"Our message is not about ourselves. It is about Jesus Christ as the Lord. We are your servants for his sake." 2 Corinthians 4:5 (GW)

3. RENEW

"We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again." 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (CEV)

"That is why we are not discouraged. Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16 (GW)

"You're my place of quiet retreat; I wait for your Word to renew me."
Psalm 119:114 (MSG)

4. REMAIN

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they will produce for us a great glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever."
2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

"I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the victory prize of being put right with God, which the Lord . . . will give me on that Day." 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (GNT)

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