

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 9

Our Hope in Christ Jesus

1 Corinthians 13:13 *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”* These are three beautiful gifts of God. They are given to us to take us through our lives here on earth and on to resurrection life. This is our Father’s hope and plan for us. Hope is also our future through Jesus Christ. With Him, our future is assured and we can walk boldly in victory today knowing that we follow His heavenly plan for resurrection life. We obtain it in part in this life and fully in the life to come. We embrace the portion of hope given to us for today and wait patiently for the fullness of the hope promised by our Heavenly Father in His Word. Hope and patience walk arm-in-arm. This scripture shows that faith, hope and love (charity) abide together and cannot be separated. Hope is an integral part of both faith and love. **Hebrews 11:1** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* **1 Corinthians 13:7** *Charity “Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”* We learned that our faith and love are not of this world, but God-given by His Spirit. So too, Godly hope is not of this world. As believers in Christ Jesus, our hope is not in things of this world. Instead, it is in the Word and promises of God that have come to us through Christ Jesus. **Psalms 130:5** *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”*

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* The hope that we have in Jesus Christ is above anything the world can offer. It is only revealed by the Holy Spirit to those who believe.

The Glorious Hope Revealed unto Us – Resurrection Life

The glorious hope of our heavenly Father is victory over all things of this world, including death. Our hope comes through the victory of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Jesus’ death and resurrection is the plan to restore mankind with our heavenly Father. Restoration to the Father is for all mankind in this life and the life to come. This restoration is not a “slight tweaking” of our lives to join a church. It is a complete remaking (born again) of who we are. It establishes us as sons and daughters of The Most High God and gives us everything that comes with being part of the family of God. **John 10:10** *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* **John 11:25** *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:”* We are created to be with God at all times and in all things. His Redemption is so great and wonderful in our lives and only His Word can explain it.

Ephesians 1:3-23 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

A Lively Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”* Jesus was the first fruits for us. “The Way” and the hope of resurrection life was set not by man but by God. **John 11:25-26** *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”* **1 Corinthians 15:51-55** *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

Our hope is so much more than simply declaring “I am a Christian” or member of a particular church denomination!

A Sure and Enduring Hope

Our hope is well-founded and secure because it comes from God. No man has the power to change our hope or defeat it. **Matthew 4:4** *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”* **John 10:27-29** *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”* **2 Corinthians 1:20** *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”*

Hebrews 7:22-28 *“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”* **2 Corinthians 9:8** *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”* **Hebrews 6:13-20** *“For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”*

A Heavenly Hope

1 Corinthians 15:19 *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”*

Many Christians have hope that Christ Jesus will improve things on earth but our Heavenly Father has something far greater for us. He has given us hope for resurrection life in heaven with Him.

Hallelujah!

John 14:1-3 *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”* **Romans 8:11** *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”*

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Revelation 21:1-7 *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”*

Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* **Lamentations 3:24-26** *“The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.”*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Romans 15:4 <i>“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”</i></p> <p>Romans 15:13 <i>“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”</i></p> <p>Psalms 130:5 <i>“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”</i></p>	<p>1. What do these scriptures reveal about the source of our hope?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
<p>Psalms 31:24 <i>“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”</i></p> <p>Colossians 1:21-23 <i>“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”</i></p> <p>Hebrews 6:17-20 <i>“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”</i></p>	<p>2. What is the admonishment and encouragement from the Lord concerning hope in these scriptures?</p> <p>Answer:</p>

<p>Romans 5:1-5 <i>“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”</i></p> <p>Philippians 1:19-20 <i>“For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.”</i></p>	<p>3. What is the result of hope that is accomplished in our lives that is identified in these scriptures?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 15:19 <i>“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”</i></p>	<p>4. What is the misery that is spoken of in this scripture?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
<p>1 Peter 3:15 <i>“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”</i></p>	<p>5. What is the purpose of our hope identified in these scriptures?</p> <p>Answer:</p>