

HOPE For The Present

March 19, 2023
Pastor Jerry Harris

For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

Tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD...so each generation can set its hope anew on God.

Psalms 78:4, 7 NLT

⇒ A person of *hope* sees that the glass is *firmly held* in the hand of God.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

Romans 5:3-5 NLT

Four critical steps to develop "Hope in the present"

Step #1 –

Keep problems in *proper perspective!*

...we know that they help us...

Romans 5:3a NLT

Problems:

- *Are inevitable*

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced.

1 Peter 4:12, 13 The Message

...The anxieties of life...will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.

Luke 21:34 NIV

- *Help us grow!*

God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Hebrews 12:10) NIV

Step #2 –

Allow troubles to *develop you!*

...troubles can develop passionate patience in us...

Romans 5:3b The Message

If we must keep trusting God for something that hasn't happened yet, it teaches us to wait patiently and confidently.

Romans 8:25 LB

Everything written in the Scriptures was written to teach us, in order that we might have hope through the patience and encouragement which the Scriptures give us.

Romans 15:4 TEV

⇒ Our lives are *controlled* by whatever we *think* to be true!

Step #3 –

Focus on *building character!*

And endurance develops strength of character...

Romans 5:4a NLT

Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wing, and only character endures.

- Horace Greeley

Step #4 –

Remember how dearly *God loves you!*

We can *rejoice*...and this *hope* will not lead to *disappointment*. For we know how dearly God loves us...

Romans 5:3, 5 NLT

In His great mercy, He's given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

1 Peter 1:3 NIV

Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

Isaiah 43:18, 19 The Message

NOTES



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