# HOPE VS HOPELESS

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.

Romans 15:13

THERE IS
ALWAYS
HOPE!

Daniel

Esther

The Israelites

Ruth

Rahab

Lazarus

Jonah

Abigail

Mary Magdalene

David

### Reasons for the Study

- Foundations must be laid before trials.
- O Satan's method is to destroy hope.
- Peaceful days are for preparation.
- You can teach your children hope.
- Hopeless wives destroy marriages.

## Reasons for the Study (2)

- Women are easy prey.
- Hollywood sells hopelessness.
- Recognize the temptation.
- We need to give our youth hope.
- Painful does not mean hopeless.
- Your life is not unusual or unique.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

1 Peter 5:8

#### Have you ever asked these questions?

- Is this all there is to life?
- Can I do this hard thing?
- Can I make it through this day?
- Does anyone understand what I'm going through?
- Why do I feel empty?
- Why is my life harder than others?

#### Can you answer these questions?

- How can I give God more glory in my life?
- Am I giving God my best?
- Do I have an arsenal prepared for attacks?
- Do I give hope to others?
- Am I consistently hope filled?
- Am I walking by faith or sight?

# hope·less: adjective

- 1. Feeling of despair about something.
  Synonyms: despairing, desperate, wretched, forlorn, pessimistic, resigned, empty, lonely, sad, depressed, overwhelmed.
- 2. Inadequate; incompetent. Synonyms: bad, awful, terrible, dreadful, horrible, atrocious, depleted, exhausted.

## hope·ful: adjective

1. Feeling of optimism about a future event.

Synonyms: optimistic, full of hope, confident, positive, buoyant, sanguine, expectant, happy, cheerful, lighthearted, upbeat, promising, encouraging, heartening, inspiring, reassuring, enthusiastic, favorable, optimistic, bright, joyful, exuberant.

- Faith is believing what you cannot see.
- Trust is acting on faith.
- The Bible is true.
- God is omnipotent.
- God is omniscient.
- God is omnipresent.



OA hopeless woman sees trials only in the pain and tears they bring.

OA hopeful woman looks for the refining and lessons in every trial.

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:3-4

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.

Zechariah 13:9

OA hopeless woman gives into fear.
OA hopeful woman is quiet, confident, and still during trials.

But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Proverbs 1:33

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

OA hopeless woman develops a bitter and unforgiving spirit.

OA hopeful woman guards against bitterness and has a thankful spirit.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Ephesians 4:13

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Hebrews 12:15

• A hopeless woman protects herself emotionally and holds pity parties because no one else understands her feelings.

OA hopeful woman is vulnerable and open because she knows godly friends will comfort or correct her as needed.

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ

Galatians 6:2

• A hopeless woman sees bad things as punishment from a harsh God who expects perfection.

OA hopeful woman understands God is greater than man and that we are but clay created for God's glory.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews 12:11

Behold, in this thou art not just: I will answer thee, that God is greater than man.

Why dost thou strive against him? for he giveth not account of any of his matters.

Job 33:12-13

• A hopeless woman has no energy or enthusiasm, life is drudgery to be survived.

OA hopeful woman looks at each day a gift from God and an adventure to be investigated with curiosity.

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

OA hopeless woman is always looking back at good times in the past and how much better it used to be. She misses the joy of now.

OA hopeful woman cherishes each moment and looks ahead with expectation and excitement of more blessings from God's hands.

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Lamentations 3:22-24

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

• A hopeless woman hangs onto things and houses and worldly goods because the future might not be as nice. And when something is taken away it is devastating.

OA hopeful woman understands nothing in this world satisfies and looks forward to heaven as her security.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

• A hopeless woman doesn't bother to earnestly pray because she has no faith He will hear or answer her.

OA hopeful woman always prays and she does it with thanksgiving no matter if the answer is yes or no. God is in control and He is perfect.

This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalm 34:6

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

**Psalm 18:6** 

• A hopeless woman pushes for the why to every situation. Asking untold detailed questions before she will act.

OA hopeful woman trusts God without knowing the reasons why or how long or how many or if......

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **DO**: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Philippians 4:9

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:26

• A hopeless woman lives from vacation to vacation because everyday life is boring and unfulfilling. She looks for ways to escape her life.

OA hopeful woman knows that everyday is an opportunity to serve her Lord and Saviour and that is enough. She embraces her life.

This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

Psalm 128:2

OA hopeless woman is constantly trying to change those around her for surely THEY must be the reason her life is so miserable.

• A hopeful woman grows more gracious as she hears the Word of God and conforms herself to be more like Christ.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.

Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

OA hopeless woman will not pursue friendships because she thinks she has nothing to offer and is actually quite unworthy.

OA hopeful woman knows she is blood bought saint and wants to praise her Lord to others. She knows He cares for her as His child.

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.

Ephesians 1:5-6

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:18

• A hopeless woman is often sick, hurt, exhausted and depressed. She is constantly looking for a pill that will fix her problems and bring joy and ease into her life.

OA hopeful woman has gladness in her heart even in pain and suffering because Christ is her portion.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 42:11

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalm 73:26

OA hopeless woman is tossed about by her spouse's attitudes, actions and words.

OA hopeful woman is content and confident in pleasing her King. She knows that her faith can not be shaken by others' faults.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 55:22

OA hopeless woman allows guilt over sin to control her life. She will not believe Jesus Christ sacrifice was sufficient for her mess.

• A hopeful woman confesses her iniquities and keeps pursuing righteousness with zeal.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

## If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself

2 Timothy 2:13

• A hopeless woman lets betrayal by friends destroy her. She becomes jaundice and suspicious of others. She sees evil intention and wants revenge.

OA hopeful woman leaves vengeance to God. He will repay justly.

For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance.

We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.

Psalm 55:12-14

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Romans 12:19

OA hopeless woman loses discipline and goes to bed, eats junk, drinks, hides, watches TV, surfs, cries or vents.

OA hopeful woman hides in God's pavilion, in the secret of His tabernacle when she starts to sink.

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40:29:31

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

OA hopeless woman constantly tries to fight the aging process. She fights against decay and loss of youth. She clings to this life.

OA hopeful woman prepares her heart for the future. She want to invest in her downline and give them confidence is God's promises for eternity.

Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.

Psalm 71:18

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Isaiah 46:4

OA hopeless woman is thrown through a loop at every new problem. She forgets how the Lord provided in the last disaster. She is sure there is no way out of this one.

OA hopeful woman is ready to recount many other times God has undertaken for her and covered her with His wings. She has scripture ready to encourage those in trouble.

Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Psalm 71:20-21

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psalm 63:7

• A hopeless woman does not believe the Bible applies to her situation. The Bible stories aren't really true. Her life is different.

OA hopeful woman complete trusts God's word without question. And she knows God has not changed.

## Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Hebrews 13:8

For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Malachi 3:6

• A hopeless woman is critical, nit-picky, hurtful, belittling and harsh in her treatment of others. She tries to make them miserable along with her. She does not like being around happy people. She thinks they are fake.

OA hopeful woman loves being around people who are sharing their blessings from the Lord and enjoying life.

Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.

Psalm 144:15

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

Psalm 146:5

• A hopeless woman can't relax physically because her mind races to "fix" problems.

OA hopeful woman is able to enjoy physical rest, turning problems and concerns to God.

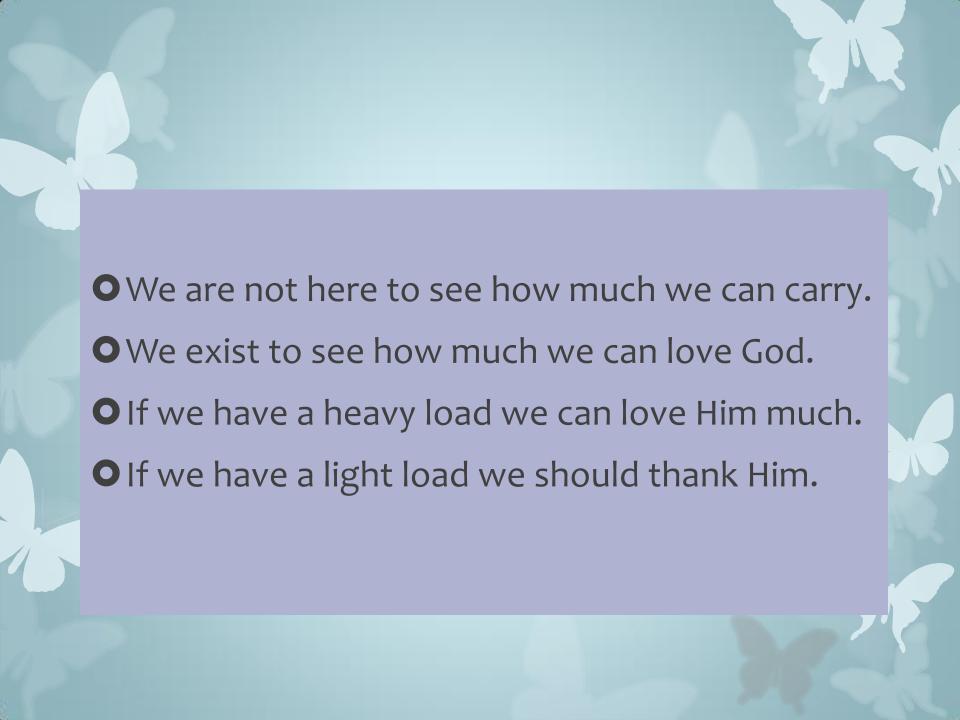
I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Proverbs 3:24





Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Acts 24:25

OA hopeless woman has only head knowledge of God. She will not allow God to take control of her life. She does not believe He is omnipotent.

OA hopeful woman understands nothing is too hard for the Almighty God.

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:18

Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

Psalm 135:6

• A hopeless woman is only cheerful when circumstances fit her definition of good.

OA hopeful woman has inner joy and peace shining no matter what the circumstances.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:11-13

• A hopeless woman gives up easily in defeat and despair. "Why try? I'll only fail again. My efforts never work out. I'm just a loser."

OA hopeful woman realizes that each failure can show her more about God and her own need. Prays for direction and creativity to move forward.

I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

Psalm 71:16

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

OA hopeless woman will say, Is this all there is? My life is almost over, what a disappointment!

OA hopeful woman has for hope in this life and the next. Heaven is very real to her.

## O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:55

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Colossians 1:5

OA hopeless woman says "This is too hard. I can't and I won't do that."

OA hopeful woman has endurance and says, "I can and I WILL do this but only in God's strength. I WILL do this because God said to and He is Right."

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.

1 Peter 5:6

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

Job 17:9

• A hopeless woman has a well-defined comfort zone and fiercely defends the boundaries, is inflexible. "I always do it this way. I'm not the type for that" she hates change.

• A hopeful woman trusts God's limitless ability to overcome human weakness.

## I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:5

OA hopeless woman doesn't want to hear the truth about God during a trial-only "smooth things" that soothe her conscience. Spends more time explaining her feelings than praying or reading her Bible.

OA hopeful woman consistently reads her Bible, prays, seeks, and follows godly counsel, wants to know the truth about God in order to grow through the trial.

That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

Isaiah 30:9-12

Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Psalm 25:4-5

• The hopeless woman prefers to avoid sharing godly counsel and provides only sympathy, enabling the other person to remain locked in self-pity or anger.

OThe hopeful woman is willing to present godly counsel to others.

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Proverbs 27:6

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

Isaiah 50:4

OThe hopeless woman takes matters into her own hands in a trial. "God isn't doing anything, so I better help out!"

• The hopeful woman is willing to wait and pray, realizing that what may make perfect sense to us, may not be God's way.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

Psalm 27:13-14

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isaiah 46:10

• The hopeless woman feels empty and alone. She can't see God's hand in her day.

OThe hopeful woman watches for and counts blessings.

For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Isaiah 41:13

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:10

OThe hopeless woman worries about the future, imagines the worst case scenarios, and is threatened by the unknown.

OThe hopeful woman trusts God who holds the future, willing to take one step at a time.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

Psalm 112:7

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jeremiah 29:11

• A hopeless woman pulls away from godly friends in trial and seeks isolation.

OA hopeful woman realizes that godly friends provide spiritual encouragement and accountability. She asks for prayer and counsel.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:4-6

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:6

OA hopeless woman focuses on "doing" which leads to overload and frustration. "I can't do this..."

• A hopeful woman focuses on "being," closer to God.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:41-42

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalm 73:28

• A hopeless woman thinks that everything depends on her effort or wisdom.

OA hopeful woman realizes that God is all-powerful. He doesn't need my help or insight to accomplish His will.

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

2 Corinthians 3:5

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5

OA hopeless woman focuses on and rehearses any negative event over and over in her mind and is unable to move past it.

OA hopeful woman releases the negative event from her mind and lays it at God's feet. Reminds herself of God's truth instead breaking the negative thought cycle.

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Corinthians 10:5

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:25

## How to Strengthen Your Hope

- Take care of physical needs.
- Take off your negative glasses.
- Take a personal hope inventory.
- Look for someone with experience.
- Consider if someone reaches out to you.
- Reach out when you are struggling.

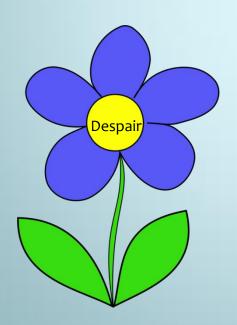
## How to Strengthen Your Hope (2)

- O Don't miss church.
- Invest in your marriage.
- Stop thinking yourself down into a pit.
- O Just say NO!
- Listen to Kingdom music.
- O Do not walk by sight, but by faith.

## How to Strengthen Your Hope (3)

- Look for God's Sovereign Hand in everything.
- Prepare a list of Scriptures on hope.
- Memorize God's promises.
- Consider the situations you see around you.
- Practice ruling emotional responses.
- Pray specifically for more hope.

## What you water is what grows.....





Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a <u>lively hope</u> 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,

1 Peter 1:3-4

But let us, who are of the day,

be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet,

the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

