

Week 8 Prayer Guide **Living in Hope – part 2**



The word “hope” generally expresses two different ideas. The more common meaning, especially outside of the Christian context, entails wishful thinking, the desire for something we might not receive. For instance, we may hope for a new job, or pray and hope for good health, while not knowing if we will receive them. We may hope for a better day but not know what a day may bring.

Hope also refers to a desire for something we are certain to receive, an assurance concerning the future. This is Christian hope. However uncertain our circumstances, or however God may answer our prayers, we know for certain He will work all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). As believers, we often have uncertain and certain hope at the same time. For instance, we may pray and hope for deliverance from a present trouble and not know if, when, or how God will answer our prayer (uncertain hope), while knowing He will ultimately deliver us and that our eternal destiny remains secure in Christ (certain hope). “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever” (Deuteronomy 29:29). Uncertain hope involves the “secret things,” while our sure hope rests on the “things revealed.” (adopted from <https://bible.org/article/two-unbearable-words-nature-christian-hope>)

Day 1

Read: Psalm 78: 1-8

*O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying,
for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—
stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us.*

*We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation
about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.*

For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel.

*He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children,
so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born—
and they in turn will teach their own children.*

*So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and
obeying his commands. Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and
unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.*

Think/Meditate:

- How do these verses bring hope... but also a challenge?
- “It’s been said that Christianity is one generation from extinction in a nation. If we do not pass along to the next generations who God is and the glorious deeds He has done, those who come after us may not have a foundation to build upon.” What does this thought mean to you?
- Do I think about the things God has done? Do I actually look to see what He is doing?
- What child, what teen, what adult, do you need to share with about what God has done?

Pray:

- For the Spirit to bring to remembrance what God has done in our personal lives and in and through Queensway.
- For wisdom and courage to share these stories with specific people who need hope in and through Christ.
- For faith to claim God’s work in the present and in the future.

Day 2

Read: Romans all of 15: 1-13 . A key verse is below.

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Think/Meditate:

- This blessing of Paul's combines hope with joy, peace, and belief. How do these go together?
- What areas of understanding of the Bible am I weak in? What areas of my belief need to be strengthened?

Pray:

- To have your faith strengthened in order for God to work in you
- For joy and peace so that you may hold onto hope and let it grow in you

Day 3

Read: Colossians 1: 21-23 below

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. — ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

Think/Meditate:

- What is the source of all our hope?
- What can steal our hope away? Have we drifted? See what God says about several churches in Revelation:
 - Ephesus: ²⁴ "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!" ⁵ Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.
 - Laodicea: ³¹⁵ "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!" ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!
- How can we prevent this from happening to us personally and in Queensway?

Pray:

- For awareness of the tendency to let the events of life take our eyes off of Christ
- For a recapturing of a passion for the gospel and for lives lived for Christ
- For a growth in our understanding the God is in control

Day 4

Read: From Romans 5 below:

² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Think/Meditate:

- How do these verses fit with yesterday's passage?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit (vs. 5) in all these things?
- What is the message our church?

Pray:

- For the ability to see beyond the present
- For the filling of the Holy Spirit in your own heart and in the Church

Other Days & Continuing

Read from Hebrews 6

We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. ¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. ¹² Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance.

¹³ *For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying: ¹⁴ "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number."*

¹⁵ *Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.*

¹⁶ *Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. ¹⁷ God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.*

Think and pray through these verses.

- ¹⁰ *For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. ¹¹ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.*
- ¹⁷ *God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. ¹⁸ So God has given both his promise and his oath. ²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*
- ^{18b} *Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. ¹⁹ This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.*