

Slide 1

Hope: The product of faith
Faith times X = Hope

If you believe in the completed work of Christ then you must have hope in the work that has been done /is being done/ will be done for you.

Slide 2-3

Rom. 4:13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

Rom. 4:16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness* of Sarah’s womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Slide 4

The story of Viktor Frankl:

September 25th 1942 An Austrian psychologist and neurologist who also happened to be Jewish, Viktor Frankl, was taken with his wife, and his parents and deported to the Nazi Theresienstadt Ghetto. There he was separated from his family. This was the 1st of 4 Nazi Prison camps that he would see. He was also imprisoned at Auschwitz, Kaufering, Türkheim.

He survived all 4 prison camps because he had something to live for or to hope in. His hope was to see his wife again he had this to say:

“ My mind still clung to the image of my wife. A thought crossed my mind: I didn't even know if she were still alive, and I had no means of finding out (during all my prison life there was no outgoing or incoming mail); but at that moment it ceased to matter. There was no need to know; nothing could touch the strength of my love, and the thoughts of my beloved. Had I known then that my wife was dead, I think that I still would have given myself, undisturbed by that knowledge, to the contemplation of that image, and that my mental conversation with her would have been just as vivid and just as satisfying.”

Now when the war was over he found that his wife and parents were killed. He did have a sister survive.

Even in the degradation and abject misery of a concentration camp, Frankl was able to exercise the most important freedom of all - the freedom of hope, hope to determine one's own attitude and spiritual well-being. Frankl clearly saw that it was those who had nothing to live for who died quickest in the concentration camp.

He needed something to hope for without it all was lost.

Lets define Hope!

Slide 5

Defining hope: a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

a feeling of trust.

1. Earthly hope has uncertainty it is not definite.

A. We can hope that our team wins the big game

B. Our kids can hope that their parents get home in time to play ball. There is no certainty it is a cross your fingers and wish for the best.

2. Biblical Hope is a confident expectation and desire for the good (Jesus) that is coming in the future.

A. We know that without a doubt God will fulfill his promises (our text Romans 4:21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.)

We don't say I hope the sun goes down tonight. Why?

Because God ordered it to do so in creation. We know that what God said would happen happens everyday.

Slide 6

Biblical hope is not a mere desire for something good to happen. It is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. Biblical hope has moral certainty in it. When the word says, "Hope in God!" it does not mean, "Cross your fingers." It means Expect for God to do something.

John Piper

Slide 7

Hope is an expectation!

Where we find Hope!

Slide 8

1. In the word

A. Hebrews 4:12-- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Living and active, sharper than a 2 edge sword!

B. His promises in scripture.---Rom. 4:13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (he promised you and I salvation from judgement and an inheritance kept for you in heaven 1Peter 1:3-4)

C. Romans 4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. (it should be easy to have hope in the one that gives life to the dead and calls things into existence.)

Slide 9

2. Through faith.

A. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law

brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. (We are heirs the same as Abraham not through our good works, but by our faith in Christ alone)

16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

God brought his promise to Abraham through faith, not Law.

B. Hope is the product of faith

18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness* of Sarah’s womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

(Verse 18 describes how faith and hope worked together: “In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations.”

“Against hope” means that from the ordinary human standpoint there was no hope: v19 Abraham was too old to have a child, and his wife was barren. But biblical hope is never based on what is possible with man. Biblical hope looks away from man to the promise of God. And when it does, it becomes

the “full assurance of hope” — the expectation of great things from God.

It is not easy to describe exactly what Paul means in verse 18 when he says, “In hope Abraham believed . . . that he should become the father of many nations.” But from the whole context I think it is fair to say that

Abraham’s faith was his strong confidence in the reliability of God’s Word,

Abraham’s hope was his strong confidence in the fulfillment of God’s promise.

In other words, whenever faith in God looks to the future, it can be called hope. And whenever hope rests on the Word of God, it can be called faith.)

Slide 10

Applying the word

Slide 11

1. Do you need hope?

Is the concept of hope something you need?
Are you able to live an effective life without it?

Have you ever been around that person who is never happy? You know the one, the human black hole. No matter what the circumstance the focus on everything negative. We don’t want to be that person, but if we put our hope on temporary distractions we run that risk. Our hope must be in the

foundation that Christ laid on the cross. We need to remember daily who we are because of Christ.

I will let Paul answer this question for you:

Eph. 2:12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Without Jesus there is NO HOPE!!!!

You can hope for something temporary and fleeting, but if your hope is in anything but God you will be disappointed.

Slide 12

2. Do you have faith? Do you believe in Christ's salvation?

If you believe than you have the greatest hope the hope of eternal salvation!

I want to say that if for any reason you do not know the answer to this question please come talk to me. ASAP

If you have confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart you have faith!

22 That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."
(Paul describes Abraham as the great example of faith, and in particular, of justification by faith. And the faith Paul is speaking about is the faith that God would fulfill his promise by giving him a

son, Isaac. So the faith which justified Abraham was faith in the future work of God. Otherwise known as hope.)

23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Slide 13

3. Where is your hope?

(All of these things that I list are good things to do, but we can not hope in them.)

A. Your Career

Do you have a great job? A career that many people would give their right arm to attain. Is this where your hope lies?

B. A financial plan or financial security

Do you have a plan for financial domination? How do the things you possess, the symbols of your success, affect your attitude toward yourself? Do your plans and possessions lead to humble gratitude toward the Giver, or do you allow for ego inflation as your financial profile grows? Is this where your hope lies?

C. An educational system

Sending your children to the right school to give them the best advantage they can have. Having them get all A's so that they can excel. Is your hope for you children in education or Jesus?

Getting yourself into the college of choice? Will the right school make a difference on your eternal destination? Is this where your hope lies?

D. Your 5 year plan

So you have the best plan you are working hard to accomplish your goals, checking things off really moving forward. Is this where your hope lies? Does your 5 year plan include Jesus?

E. Does your hope rest in works?

You teach Sunday school, go to 2 home groups, sing on the worship team, volunteer at the Easter egg hunt, volunteer at Camp Launch, serve in the nursery, work in coffee ministry, help with the youth group, and I even go to the detention center on Monday night to preach the word to inmates. Will these things alone get you to heaven?

Slide 14

4. Who is your hope?

A. People or Family

You have tons of friends, a great family, and an awesome wife. People that you have strong bonds with and you think won't let you down. Will these people influence God on your behalf?

B. Government

I live in the U.S.A. the greatest country that has ever existed! Our government is above all others. We have enough

military strength to bring down anyone else. No one compares.
Do you hope in American exceptionalism.

C. Politician

The next president of the United States of America
is..... Do you let yourself hope in the country you live and the
leader that is in office? God is in control.

Slide 15

5. Where true hope is

1. Jesus

Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore if anyone
is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old
things passed away; behold, new things have
come."

¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the
appearing of the glory of our great God and
Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13

We are to hope for the day that we are with
Jesus this is the reason that Christ went to the cross

so that we may have hope in that day. He went to the cross so that you and I might have hope.

Slide 16

2. The Word of God

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. **2 Timothy 3:16–17**

If you are reading your Bible daily you are filling yourself with the hope that God himself has placed in your hands. He says you are my child open the book for your infilling of hope. Fill up on the promises that God has written for you. He has given us his living, breathing word, wow what a privilege. Look at it this way God himself went through the trouble of having 40 different people over a span of about 2000 years write a book just for you to have hope for your future.

Slide 17

3. Prayer

David found great hope in praying.

Psalm 42:5

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God

Make this decision daily. (perspective)

Remember who God is.

Pray this for yourself! Pray to God ask for help.

If we walk around a bunch of defeated hopeless people we are not being a testament to what Christ has done and will do for us.

The hope that we have in Christ is real it is not the everything is fine, show no weakness, smooth it over mentality. It is real hope, for a real place in heaven, for us his for real people. You are his son his daughter. We are his people.

Benediction:

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13