

Title: May Yet Be Hope

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 8/17/25

My name is Grant Hill. I'm the associate pastor here at the Garden Gathering Church, if haven't met you yet. Today, when talking to the Lord about what He wanted me to bring, He said, "I want to talk about hope." So, the Lord speaks.

First Thessalonians 1:2-3 NKJV

There are three things mentioned here, faith, love and hope. There is a verse talks about this in Corinthians that, "Now these three abide faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love." You might have remembered that, but now they are attributed with action and with work and with labor, in that you go from faith to faith.

Romans 1:14-17 NKJV

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the salvation of God to Jews first and then also to the Greeks. We live by faith, going from faith to faith, because the just live by faith." So, you are growing from faith to faith, because there's a work. "We are remembering without ceasing your work of faith. We are remembering without ceasing your labor of love, and we are remembering without ceasing your patience of hope." So, there is a labor in hope. You have to mature it. You have to grow it. You have to cultivate it. You have to prune it. You have to tend to it. You have to guard it in the same way that you have to guard your faith, tend to your faith, cultivate your faith, and prune your faith.

In the same way that you have to prune yourself in love. Am I loving someone with the love of God, which is agape, love unconditional? Or, is it phileo, or eros, or is it of what I would long for? The English *language* does not do a good word *translation* of the love of God, but the love of God is unconditional. There is no condition that can stop His love. There's no condition that disqualifies you from the love of God. He asks His Bride to be of that same nature as our Father, who is in Heaven. He is perfect. Be like Him.

In hope, there is a work. There is a maturing to grow into more hope, right? We understand this. You can go from faith to faith. We can also go love to love. How do we know that? In the book of Peter, he says, "Now add to faith virtue, and to virtue, add knowledge and to knowledge, add self control, to self control, add perseverance, to perseverance, add godliness, to godliness, add brotherly kindness, and when you add brotherly kindness, you'll get to love." Faith will actually, in that process, grow love. So, you can go from love to love. You can go from an expansion of your heart to another expansion of your heart. You can love more people unconditionally than you have before. If you can go from faith to faith, and you can go from love to love, then you can go from hope to hope. You can go from hope to hope. There is an endurance of hope. Yes.

The problem is that the English doesn't do a good job of translating hope. It's usually tied with wishing. I hope that this happens. I hope that this will become something. It's tied to a synonym of a wish. I wish. But, the difference is that you can say you're doing something in the name of God. Wishing for it to happen, but saying it's hope. The difference is, if I go to the gas station and I buy a lottery ticket. I can say I am putting my hope in God. I hope that this lottery ticket *wins*, right? I put my faith in the Lord, that I hope that this lottery ticket *wins*. I am wishing for this to happen, versus I go to the bank and I deposit into an investment. That's real hope. I know that when I deposit money here, there will be a return on my investment.

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Do you understand the difference? True hope is making deposits. Wishing in a lottery is not the hope of the Lord. But, depositing your trust and depositing your surrender in the Kingdom of Heaven will return on investment by faith. Does this make sense? That's the difference of how it should feel. How do you deposit hope into the Kingdom of Heaven? Every time you surrender a portion of your heart. Every time you wake up and say, "With all of my heart, I open my heart to you. I trust you. I entrust you with my future. I trust you with what I'm going through. I am entrusting you. I am depositing trust into your word. I am depositing trust into these scriptures. I'm depositing trust into the Kingdom of Heaven. I am surrendering my control. I'm surrendering my answers. I'm surrendering my opinions. I'm putting my trust, my life, my future, in You, in the Kingdom of Heaven. But, I don't have a wish that's going to do me good. I don't have a wish that's going to help me. I know that by faith. The bold say, "When I entrust it to God, there is a return on investment in the future, because faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen," or in the unseen realm. Okay, when we tie that affinity to a wish, we fall short of what God wants. God says, "I'm not a lottery."

When you say, "I'm putting my hope in the Lord." That's not, "I hope I get the lucky ticket that He's going to heal me. I hope I get the lucky ticket that He heard my prayers. I hope that I got the lucky ticket that He delivers me." That's not hope, that's a wish. But, I deposit into Word of God, saying, "As I deposit daily, I can grow in hope." People have seen that return on investment, then they deposit more into the Holy Spirit. They say, "You know what? I can give all of this, because I know what He has done." By faith, I have grown in faith to have bigger hopes, and to deposit bigger hopes. So now, I believe the dead man raises. I believe the leper is cleansed. I believe that the demon flees. I believe that the sick are healed, because my son's fever went away. Now I have a little more hope to deposit and entrust, and I know it will be true. You hear, this is true hope? Yeah. So what happens?

Proverbs 13:12 NKJV

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick," and this is where you say, "Grant, I did hope. I have hoped, and now you're telling me to hope again, to entrust again, and to believe the deposit will have a return on investment in the Kingdom of God? I'm hurting because I feel the let down. I have had my hope burst. I have had my hope wounded. I have had my faith chinked. The shields got a dent, right?" We've been there. There are three things that remain. We can really cling to faith and we can really cling to love. But, don't ask me to hope. Those three things remain, and they're very essential.

I had a former job and was told that, "This job is a three legged stool, and if one of them is not working, then the legs fall down." Your faith is the same way. It's three legged. You have faith, love and hope. If one of those legs is wounded, then the rest of the legs on that stool are going to topple or falter when it comes to the hard time. You have to cultivate hope. You have to prune hope. You have to guard hope. God is not afraid of you feeling hope deferred. He's not afraid of you feeling heart sick, because then He's pruning those things that we might have put hope in that weren't all the way *from* Him. He wants to give you pure hope, right? Yes, say, "Yes, He wants to give us pure hope." We can have good hope and good things for the Holy Spirit. Yet He's not afraid of shaving off the good and making it perfect hope. That's where we get offended. That's where it hurts, because you're like, "What was wrong with the whole enchilada? It's all good." But, He says, "I want you to be perfect, like My Father in Heaven is perfect." We have a hope in the Kingdom of Heaven alone, not in man, not in your own ways, not in your own opinions, not in your own strengths, not even in the Church, but in God. Do you understand?

Job was a man who really needed a lot of hope. In the life that we live, the devil attacks hope, because hope is the start of faith. We read in the book of Peter that faith is the cycle of love, and you go from faith to love and hope. It's this growing cycle in the Kingdom of Heaven,

Sunday, August 17, 2025

onwards and upwards. If you make your heart sick, then love and faith can be stagnant for a season and not grow. Do you understand? It can be easy to hit hope, because all the devil has to do is what He did with Adam and Eve. Saying, "Did God really say? Did God really say that? Oh, He just doesn't want you to be like Him." Hope deferred makes the heart sick. What hit Adam and Eve was the doubt that God really had their best interest *in mind*. Hope is the opposite. Hope believes that God has my best interest *in mind*. Hope thinks God has my best interest *in mind*. This isn't a lottery. See the hope. This isn't a lottery. I am a child of God. He bought me. He pledged Himself to me. He spilled His blood for me. He says, "I'm His child. He says, I'm in a kingdom of priests. This isn't a lottery. This is life, and it has been given to me as an adopted son. Now, whatever the Father has, He gives to me. I am an inheritor of the guarantees of Jesus Christ. That brings true hope. He has my best interest always in His mind.

Job 17:13-15

Job felt that doubt. He felt that unbelief. "Does God really have my best interest in mind," right? Job prays for relief is what my heading says. You see what He's saying? "If I'm just going to give up, if I'm at the end of the road, if I'm at the end of the line, and I just say, "You know what worm start eating away. You know what death just cover me now," then where is my hope? What have I been doing all my life, saying, "I hope in God." 'As for my hope, who will see it? If not in this dark hour that I needed the most?" But he's being tested. He's being tried. He's looking in his own heart. What did I really deposit my trust into? What have I really deposited my heart into? What have I really surrendered to? Because, I thought I was surrendering to God Almighty? Did I do that? Or was I surrendering to my own righteousness? Was I surrendering to my self-righteousness? Was I believing in myself?" He's feeling it. This is what the Church can do. This is what all believers can do. We have to go through that. God will allow us to feel that. What are you really hoping in?

Job 27:8-10

You see, the hypocrite is the one that says to God, "I trust in You." But then, wherever he goes doesn't show the faith. "Faith without works is dead." The book of James says that. "Show me faith without works. I will show you my faith by my works, and I will never stop ceasing to remember your work of faith, your labor of love and your patience of hope." Job says, if the hypocrite is one of those that really was trusting in their own might, really was trusting in their own riches, really was trusting in their own brilliance and not actually entrusting their life to God and putting the hope deposit there in the Kingdom of Heaven, then when trouble comes, will God even listen? Why would God listen when he's not hoped in Him all his life, until right now? That's Job's call. That's his cry. That's what he's talking about.

Lamentations 3:17-29

Lamentations was written during the Babylonian captivity by Jeremiah as he was grieving over all that happened through the rejection of the Jewish people. The Lord had to discipline them, tear down the temple and send them away. Jeremiah, by the Spirit of the Lord, grieves over what has happened. "There may yet be hope." What is that? What is that feeling? Did you feel the shift of this? "This is really bad. Life is going horribly. But, when I actually think about it, he said, there is hope." Because God didn't deal with us according to our sins. His mercy was actually towards us, even in this chastisement. Even in this discipline, I did not get what I deserved. His mercy is new every morning. His goodness is to me. Every day I am a part of His portion. "There may yet be hope." Do you hear that little moment of, "There may yet be hope?" Your heart hears that that. Hope is a spark. "There may yet be hope." Hope is the spark of life. Hope is the initiative. Hope is the jump start. Hope is the spark when the land is dry and parched. Hope isn't just the thought of rain. Hope is when the wind changes.

Do you know that feeling? When the wind changes and something hits your heart. That's hope. I'm talking about when you've traveled on a long highway and you hit a dead end. It seems like

Sunday, August 17, 2025

you did all that traveling for nothing. Spiritually, hope says, "What if you jump the fence?" Hope is the spark when the question is, why? Hope says, "What if?" When the question is, "Why is this happening? Why are you doing this? God, what do you have for me? Why would you ever think of this about me?" Hope says, "What if I did it for this?" That's hope. If you can't walk anymore, hope says, "What if you fly." When you can't cry anymore, hope says, "What if you dance?" When you can't sing anymore, hope says, "What if you pray?" Hope is the spark of revelation. Hope is the morsel of wisdom. Hope is the key of counsel. Hope is the breakthrough of might. It breaks the door open just enough. Hope is the yearning for intimacy. Hope sprouts in the fear of the Lord. Hope is the Holy Spirit. In the beginning, it says that "the Spirit hovered over the waters." It's the hope. Hope is the Holy Spirit. Faith, hope and love abide, yes. "There may yet be hope."

Proverbs 10:22

Hope, you felt that right? When I said, "He adds no sorrow with it," your heart quickened. I hope you did. "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich and He adds no sorrow with it."

Proverbs 10:25

Does that mean that you won't feel the effects of the whirlwind? No, but there is a foundation. Your foundation is set. Your foundation is laid. It will not tear all the way down. There will not be total destruction. Hope is in His best interest is for me. I may feel the effects of persecution. They may take away all of my money, but there is still an everlasting foundation. I am not at rock bottom. I am built on the foundation of Christ. He is the hope, yes!

Proverbs 10:28

"The hope of the righteous will be gladness."

Proverbs 10:30

"The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the Earth." That's hope.

Let's talk about it. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." Normally, where we have our heart sickened is by brothers and sisters in Christ, and by the Church. We are called to hope in the glorious Bride of Christ being made pure and spotless, so that Jesus can come. At the end of the book, it says, "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' All who hear say, 'Come.'" Who are we saying "Come," to? The Bridegroom King is to come and have His Bride. So, there is a longing to see the Church be pure, be glorious, be magnificent, and be filled in the power of the Holy Spirit. Yet, that Church wounds and hurts each other. Where we have our hope in the Church, it can cause hurt and wounding to your hope. God's not afraid of that. He wants us to believe in our spouses. He wants us to believe in our children. He wants us to believe in each other, but He's always going to prune it to be more and more through Him. Because, the soul is a very flippant place. The soul can be very deceitful.

It says in the book of Hebrews, "The Word of the Lord, cuts through the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The Word of the Lord cuts between the spirit, and the soul, the bone and the marrow, to the thoughts and intention of the heart." As we as baby Christians grow up, Jesus knows that you're not going to know how to put your hope in Him perfectly, but you must practice putting in your hope in Him. You must practice putting your hope in the Spirit. As you grow up, and as you feel your heart deferred, making it sick, He's going to go through and say, "All of this was really what you were putting your hope in. You put in a little bit of your soul in there. You put in a little bit of your pride. You put in a little bit of your expectancy on the head and the strength of man, the strength of the American dollar, and the strength of your retirement plan ... He will go through all of those things, decade after decade, year after year asking where is your hope? That's the growth. The offense is good. It's all in the Kingdom, right? God says, "Well, it's not quite this." Hope deferred makes the heart sick, and you can

Sunday, August 17, 2025

have damaged hope. You're not supposed to be the run down jalopy that just makes it through to Jesus's pearly gates, but whose engine is full of hope. Is it? Sounds a lot like wishing. Do you see? Hope is full of gladness. "The righteous have hope that's full of gladness," not just, "I made it."

The hope of Jesus was a lot different than how we talk about hope sometimes. His hope was more of a determination. His hope was more of a zeal. His hope was more of "this is going to happen." His hope was, "if I get through this persecution, I'm going to have My Bride." His hope was, "I see through these disciples that don't understand what I'm telling them. After I tell them in three days, I'm going to be dead, and then I'll be raised. They say, "Great, can we sit by you in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

In the book of Mark, Jesus says, "We're going to go to Jerusalem. They're going to kill me. I'm going to be dead three days, and then I'll be raised." James and John say, "Great, in the Kingdom of Heaven, 'can I sit on your left, and my brother sit at your right?" Jesus says, "Can you drink the cup that I've drank? Can you be baptized with the baptism that I'm experiencing right now.?" They say, yeah. Jesus says, "You're naive, but you will drink the cup that I drink, and you will experience that baptism." It's just the prophecy of the naivety of a child.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but that sickness can cripple you if you let it. If you feel like your hope is damaged or crippled, then you have to be set free to start that faith again, to start that love again, to expand the heart, to deposit and entrust the return on investment. So, what does this look like? If I have been standing for healing and it has been years. That is hope deferred that makes the heart sick. That faith can be like, "You know what? I'm going to deposit another day of faith into this." That's hard to do when it's years later. We run into that at the pool of Bethesda, where the man that was crippled says, "Why are you talking to me? I have no more hope to deposit into someone else." Jesus says, "Well, I want to talk to you about that. I want to explain it to you. I want to work it out with you." Because, true hope develops when you think about Him.

True hope develops when the writer of Lamentations, Jeremiah, says, "Wait a minute. I'm thinking about God, and it's not about my situation." That's really easy to do. When we are struggling, we go to God consistently, saying, "Lord, you know I'm hurting here. You know I'm lacking here. You know this is not going well at work here. You know how it's been feeling at my job over there. You know what's going on with my kids?" He says, but what if you just thought about Me?" That shifted the mindset of the writer of Lamentations. But, there may yet be hope when I think about Him, how He's done it, and how He's moving. When that encounter comes with God, that unlocks hope to be deposited more, because your hope should be in the Lord.

Now it makes sense that you can't trust in the Lord unless you have seen the Lord. You can't believe in the Lord unless you've heard the Lord's voice. You can't walk with the Lord unless you see where He's going. All of those hope things, all those deposits, all of those entrustments, are based on your encounters with the one and only Lord Jesus Christ. That's why it's important that when we teach you how to hear Holy Spirit, He's teaching you how to discern between good and evil. He's teaching here between your soul and His spirit. He's teaching you how to hear your own thoughts and your own intentions versus His thoughts and His intentions. There's where hope will grow. There's where hope will abide. There's where hope will remain. His thoughts and His intentions versus my thoughts and my intentions. Hope derives from our time with God, being around the Lord, listening to His heart, and hearing His thoughts and His ways. This sparks continuous, true hope within. All the devil has to do is to hurt you enough to not want to listen to His heart, to not want to hear His thoughts, to not want to see His ways, then hope is quenched. All the devil has to do is to hurt you enough so

Sunday, August 17, 2025

that you don't want to listen to God's heart. You don't want to hear the Lord's thoughts. You don't want to see His ways, because when you do that, hope would spark, and it's a true, continuous hope.

1 Peter 1:3

Now He has to birth us again. We know this. The prophets had a hope. Job actually comes to the knowledge of who His hope is in, right? They had a hope in the Old Testament. We're talking about here in the New Testament that He has born us again, begotten us again to a living hope. Through a living hope, you can apply this also to your own life, where you have lost hope, where hope is dying, or hope has been grieved, or hope is hardened and blocked. Thanks be to God who has birthed me again and opened my ears to hear hope again. But, it's alive. It's alive. It's a living hope. Who is it? It's Jesus Himself. He is our hope. We sing that song, "Our Living Hope."

When you are entrusting your heart to the Kingdom of Heaven, you're entrusting your heart to a living, resurrected Messiah, who's not dead. He's not dead. What other religion can say that? Where is Muhammad? Where is he? Do you see what I'm saying? Yes, Jesus is alive. He has born us to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is in Heaven in the flesh. My hope, what I'm entrusting my heart to, is an actual man, fully alive in Heaven. Seated at the right hand of God, interceding on my behalf, and He hears my prayer. I am not pulling a lottery ticket down from Heaven. I am seated in heavenly places. As I encounter His thoughts, as I see His ways, as I listen to His heart, "there may yet still be hope," sparks in me. I am entrusting it to Him. This is a living hope.

Hebrews 11:1

It's so hard to understand, right? There is nothing concrete about unseen realms in our minds. It's the evidence. It's the substance. You can knock on it is basically what it's saying. You experience that, it's not a wish. A wish has no substance. But, this writer of Hebrews is saying, "No, no, no, I can cling to it. I can hold it. I can put my spirit rooted and grounded in this love, faith and hope. These three abide. Now, faith is the substance of things hoped for, and it's my evidence of the unseen realm." Wow, you can't have faith unless your hope is whole. That is where the Church sometimes lacks. That I am holding on to my faith, but I gave up on hope a decade ago. The writer says, "No, no, your hope has to be whole. Your faith has to be whole, that your love may be whole. You cannot say that one is without the other for it's a three legged stool.

This is that word Brandy brought up last week, "He is delivering us from distresses. Christ is healing traumas, and trauma is a very real attack on hope. It's not just people that make those expectations and they burst, but it's traumas of, "I thought God was going to do this for me, and I experienced this." The devil just has to say, "God let you down. His best interest is not for you. Why would you put your hope in Him again? Why would you deposit part of your heart in Him?" God's not afraid of us feeling that way, and God's not afraid of us talking to Him about that, going into those deep places and seeing you there. Those are deep places that are real in the heart. The battleground is hope, faith and love with the One that you feel let you down. There's real deliverance in the House of the Lord for true hope to be in that encounter with the living God. But, if you do not want to listen to His heart, it's going to be very hard. Yes, this is the word that I have to encourage you today.

If you need to pray over any of these things, we are here because there is a anointing from the Holy One to break through. Hope is that break through. "There may yet be hope." Amen.

Let's stand and pray.

Sunday, August 17, 2025

“Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, that you have begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. You have begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and “there may yet be hope.” I thank you Jesus for going to the depths, and going into the heart. I thank you for restoring it. I thank you for confirming this word Lord in the psalmist, prophetic. Lord, I thank you. We honor that you want to speak, to heal us, to save us, to deliver us, to restore the desolations of generations, to restore the time that the locusts have eaten, because hope has not sprung forth in years. Hope has not been wanted to burst forth where we have been grieved, where we have been wounded, where we have been traumatized, where we have been offended, where we have been divided from your heart, your thoughts, and from your ways. Lord, it's our offense that comes down to you. The offense is between you and us, God. You're not afraid to look through it and to heal us. Reestablish that love and that faith and spark hope again. That we can deposit true hope and trust in you. We can deposit true faith in trusting it to you. We can give you our whole heart full of love entrusting our heart to you. In Jesus' mighty name I pray, amen.”