

Hope is a Promise

read

Hebrews 6:19-20

think

How would you define “hope”? I ask because I think we tend to define it poorly. We treat the word *hope* as synonymous for the words *wish*, *dream*, or *desire*. While that may make sense culturally, it’s a weak definition. A *wish* doesn’t stand up to the weight of biblical hope. Biblical hope can be best defined as “life changing certainty about the future” or more succinctly, biblical hope means a *promised future*. We all have a longing for hope. It fills some need in us, some hole, some desire we had no idea needed to be filled – and yet – it fits. Why? Because every single one of us are hope-based creations. It is built into our DNA – it is built into our bones, but many of us live with the weak definition, instead of the true, biblical one.

Anthropologist Clifford Gertz says that “without a structure for hope we become a vague chaos of emotions.” Essentially, without hope, we don’t have a structure to fit our life and all of its various emotions into. We turn into a formless monster with no sense of direction.

Without hope (or a promised future) we have nothing bigger than us to strive for or hold onto. The book of Hebrews tells us over and over again about the promised future of eternal life with God. It tells us that he gives us a structure in conquering all chaos to provide us hope, a promised future where eternity is real and with it, full redemption of all broken things.

apply

- Make a pro/con list defining hope as a “wish” and then make one defining it as a “promise.”
- What kind of God do you want right now? A God that grants your wishes or a God that promises you a future?
- What you believe about your promised future shapes what you do today. Knowing that, how can you look at your current anxiety or stress differently?

pray

Father, we give you praise for the promise you have given to us – a future of being pursued by you, healed by you, and known by you. As we study your word and spend time thinking of our daily anxieties and worries, would you have the Holy Spirit remind of us of the promises that are made true in your son Jesus. We have been redeemed, we have been secured, nothing of this world can ultimately conquer us. We praise you for the hope we have in you!

by Becca Heck

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