



A Brief Look at the Source of Biblical Hope

By Jacqueline Wallace and Naomi Chow

Adapted from the *Brokenness to Beauty Bible Study*

By Jacqueline Wallace

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The Source of Hope

Looking In All the Right Places

Over the years I had learned to press on no matter how hard it became, even in the face of not knowing how things might turn out. But I leaned hard on God and his Word. The encouragement of the Scriptures is available to all, but it only comes from reading (or hearing) the Scriptures.

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All of us need hope to move through life. We become especially aware of this when faced with circumstances beyond our control. In this study, we will answer these two questions:

1. When our lives are falling apart, where do we find hope to move ahead each day?
2. What does the Bible have to do with producing hope in us?

Before we start, we need to understand what hope is. And what it is not. First, what it is not: The hope we find spoken of in the Bible is *not* wishful thinking as in, “I hope we have nice weather.” Second, what biblical hope is: The Greek word used in the New Testament translated hope, and it’s various forms and ways it is used, is defined as expectation, confidence, trust; or the object of hope, the thing hoped for. ¹

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a good expectation for our future, confidence that extends beyond this life into eternity. As we will learn in this study, biblical hope has deep roots and is steadfast and unwavering. We can trust our lives to it. This hope can and will hold us up and pull us through every dark valley we enter. Do you have this hope? Do you know where its roots lie, how deep and strong they are? Read on.

¹ Wm. D. Mounce, *The Interlinear for the Rest of Us* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan) 2006

1. Have you ever been faced with a frightening or overwhelming situation, with circumstances beyond your control? What was your first response?
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1. Read Joshua 1:9, quoted here.
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
 - a. When God told Joshua to lead the Israelites into the land of Canaan what emotion did he directly address? What words did God use to clue us in to that emotion?
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b. When you were fearful, confused, hurt, or disappointed did you read a passage of Scripture, or did someone read or quote Bible verses to encourage you, *and you felt God spoke directly to you about that fear or another issue?*

c. How did that experience affect your view of how God speaks to us through the Bible?

d. What promise did God make to Joshua at the end of Joshua 1:9 when he said, “for the Lord your God is _____.”? Has God given believers a similar promise in the New Testament? Do you know in which book that promise is found? (Consider Matthew 28:18–20 and Hebrews 13:5. Be sure to read Scripture in its context, that is, several verses before and after the references given.)

2. Read Joshua 1:8, quoted here.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

a. What did God tell Joshua to do that would guarantee his success in all he did?

b. Do you think Joshua 1:8 applies to you and me today? Why or why not? What Scripture backs up your answer? Can you think of a New Testament equivalent of this verse in Joshua?

God desires to speak to us—and he has spoken to us in his word—to calm our fears and lead us into the truth so that we may better live for and serve him with joy and peace. We have the responsibility to put ourselves in a position to hear him. This position to hear includes:

- regularly reading the word of God on our own and living in the awareness of God's presence,
- being where the word of God is taught, such as at church services and in a Bible study,
- and being part of a small group in which we can develop relationships with believers who can speak the truth of God into our lives.

It is in these contexts that God usually teaches and speaks to us by his Spirit.

- c. What are you currently doing to hear God regularly? Are the three practices above a part of your life?

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- d. If they are not, what must you do to remedy that?
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Photo by gleangenie natash

Learning From All the Right Places

1. **Read** Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:1–13, quoted here (emphasis added).
 - **Romans 15:4**—“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
 - **1 Corinthians 10:1–13**—“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³ and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.⁶ Now *these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.*⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now *these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction*, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

- a. What is one reason God had the Scriptures written down? (Romans 15:4a; 1 Corinthians 10:11)

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- b. A list of negative things for our instruction is found in 1 Corinthians 10:6–10. List them here.
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- c. What two positive things should we learn from what is written in the Bible? (Rom. 15:4b)
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- d. What is the outcome of learning to endure and gaining encouragement from the Scriptures? (Rom. 15:4b)
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Romans 15:4 states we should learn two crucial things from reading the Scriptures: endurance and encouragement. The ultimate result, the fruit of learning to endure and being encouraged by the Scriptures is hope, even in our scary and out-of-our-control circumstances.

2. Read Romans 15:5–6 and 15:13, both quoted here:

Romans 15:5–6—“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:13—“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

- a. Who is the source and supplier of endurance and encouragement? (v. 5)

- b. Who is the source of hope? By whose power are we able to abound in hope? (v. 13)

Reading the Bible, being instructed by God, and putting his word into practice are pivotal to acquiring hope in the midst of our circumstances. This should cause us to praise God together with our fellow believers, building each other up in our faith (Romans 15:4–6).

- c. In the paragraph above, underline each phrase that speaks to what we need to do regularly to gain hope. Circle what we should do in unity with other believers that will glorify God.
- d. Are you doing these things regularly? If not, what will you do to start the process?

3. Read Psalm 50:14–15, 23 and Romans 15:5–6, quoted here.

- **Psalm 50:14–15, 23** —“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me. ... ²³ The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!”
- **Romans 15:5–6** —“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When you praise God, giving him thanks, especially when done together with other believers, what are you ultimately doing? _____

Our God is the God of endurance and encouragement and hope, and he is worthy of our praise and thanks. *We* may not be in control, but *he* is.

In the verses above, we discover three key factors for finding hope:

- Learning from and obeying the Scriptures, which were written to instruct us
- Learning endurance and gaining encouragement from God through his word
- Receiving joy and peace from the God of hope

When these three converge, they produce a “perfect storm” of hope making in us! We abound with hope by his power through his Spirit. Hope centered in the God of Hope.

Identify a time in your life when you know you learned something about enduring, and a time when you were encouraged to press on by what you read in the Bible, or someone shared from the Scriptures with you. Take a moment to thank God for his love and care of you by speaking to you through his word, teaching and encouraging you. Write your prayer of thanks here.

Lifelong Learners

As we read the Bible day after day, Old and New Testaments, we learn from the true life stories of others, from their errors as well as their right choices (1 Corinthians 10:6–11). We learn who God is, what he is like, what is important to him. We find out how he has dealt with those who fear, honor, and obey him as well as how he has dealt with those who refuse to fear, honor, and obey him.

Pick one incident from your life as a time when you recognized God was working in you and your circumstances, turning a negative situation into a positive one.

Briefly name that incident here. Thank God for his merciful work in you to turn a negative into a positive for your good and his glory.

Learning to walk with God is a process, a lifelong journey. It has its starting point at our choice to make time for listening to and communing with God. This happens primarily through being in his word and prayer, in the context of Christian community. We maintain this learning process in the same way—by the choice we make each day to learn humbly from God’s word, put it into practice in our lives, practice living in God’s presence, and live in unity with God’s people. This is how we “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

Learning to Live—Really Live

We are encouraged to read the Bible and do what it says not because it is a nice idea, a good way among many ways. No, the Scriptures are unique. They are God’s words to us. They are alive, powerful, and eternal. What God says he will do, he does. What God says is going to happen, will happen. We can stake our lives on it. In fact, taking heed to the words of God is the only way to live—literally.

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:15–20, quoted below. Listen in on Moses’ final warning to the Israelites.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

- a. Moses offered two choices. What are these choices? (v. 15)
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- b. To choose life, what did the Israelites have to do?
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- c. To choose death, what did the Israelites have to do?
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2. Now read Deuteronomy 32:46–47, quoted here (emphasis added):

“He said to them, ‘Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.

⁴⁷ *For it is no empty word for you, but your very life*, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.’”

- a. Do you think God’s word has become less important over time? Is it less weighty for us today than for the Israelites in Moses’ day?
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- b. What did Jesus say about the importance of God’s words?

- **Matthew 4:3–4**—“And the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ ⁴ But he answered, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’”
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c. What did the apostles and early church leaders believe about God's word?

- **2 Timothy 3:15–17**—“From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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.”
 - **James 1:21–22**—“Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
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d. For us to choose life, what must we do?

- **Matthew 7:21, 24–25**—“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ... ²¹ Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”
-

e. For us to choose death, what must we do, or rather, not do?

- **Matthew 7:26–27**—“And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”
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The words of God are our life, as surely as they were the life of Israel. Jesus said, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus’ words are not figurative but literal. To disregard and disobey God’s word is to choose the way of death, but obedience to the word of God, doing what it says in all humility before God, walking in the Spirit, is the way of life.

God and his word are the source of life, strength, encouragement, and *hope*. We can hold on to it, especially in our times of desperate struggle.

God’s word will never fail us, for God will never fail.

Do you believe we need this source of life, strength, encouragement, and hope all of our days, not just when we are in desperation and are aware that we need it?

*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.”
(Hebrews 10:23 NIV)*

3. Do you have a favorite Scripture verse or passage that you keep going to when times get rough? What is it? (If you don’t have one, go to Psalm 25 on the next page of this lesson and read it for this exercise.)

a. What is it that speaks to you in those verses?

b. What did these verses teach you about God? About yourself?

- c. Did you change your thinking and behavior based on those truths? If so, what changed (or will change)?
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Psalm 25 (NIV)

“In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

² I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³ No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

¹¹ For the sake of your name, Lord, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

¹² Who, then, are those who fear the Lord? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.

¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land.

- ¹⁴ The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only he will release my feet from the snare.
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.
- ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.
- ¹⁹ See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!
- ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.
- ²² Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles!”

The Next Step

What did God impress on your heart from this study?

Outline the steps you will take to obey the Lord, implementing what you have learned.

Tell your decision to the person sitting next to you.

*“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will
stand forever.”
(Isaiah 40:8)*

This study on the subject of biblical Hope is by no means exhaustive. There is so much more we could say, drawing on more Scriptures to shed light on our subject. However, we must call an end our time together.

Nevertheless, we trust you will continue to search the Scriptures on your own, your eyes fixed on Jesus, pursuing him every day. Look on the Resources page for Bible study tools to assist you in that pursuit.

We would say, as the writer of the book of Hebrews said, “We appeal to you, sisters, bear with our word of exhortation, for we have written and spoken to you briefly” (Hebrews 13:22 with my paraphrase).

And as Paul told Timothy, so we say to you, “The purpose of our instruction is that all of you would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith” (1 Timothy 1:5 NLT with my paraphrase).

Our sincere prayer is that this time together contemplating the Scriptures will bear fruit in all our lives to the glory of God.

Thank you for joining us in this venture into the word of God, for by his word God lights our paths and transforms our lives.

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen”
(Hebrews 13:20–21).

Got Hope? Give Hope!



By Kimme Image



Under His Umbrella/Rwanda/ Tanya Rush



She Is Safe /India Transformation Groups/Bakersfield She Is Safe Advocacy Group

Support your own church's Missions and missionaries as well as other ministries. Get involved globally and locally. Partner with those who are taking the Hope of the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him. Someone told you. Now you tell someone else.

The Journey Continues . . .

The Source of Hope

A Five-Day Devotional

The Journey Continues . . .

One step at a time.

Studying the word of God confronts us with making decisions in response to what God has said. Sometimes we learn new information, a truth we never heard before. Other times what we read or hear is not new to us but this time it is as though a light came on inside. We have new understanding. Either way, we have an awareness that we must act on the truth God has revealed.

It is the work of the Spirit of God to teach us what the words of God mean and how to respond in obedience to them. Paul put it this way to the believers in Corinth:

“What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. . . . ¹⁶ But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:12–14, 16 NIV)

If that doesn't make you want to say, “Wow!” I don't know what will!

The Spirit of God, who lives in every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, faithfully does his work. It is our responsibility to cooperate faithfully with him by following through and doing what Jesus said the truly wise would do when they hear his words: put them into practice.

This five-day devotional guide is designed to assist you in cooperating with the Spirit of God who has shed light on his word through this brief study on Hope. Use this as a daily devotional over the next few days to cement your responses to the things God began to teach you in this study.

Pray and think through the Scriptures. Spread one day into two or three if necessary. “Daily” devotionals are simply a means to get you into the Bible and the presence of God on a daily basis. Make the devotions work for you, not the other way around.

Resolve to put each truth from the Scriptures into action in your life. Remember, learning and growing in Christ is a process, a journey. Peter showed us a logical and simple path of obedience when he said:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

⁵ “For this very reason, *make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;*⁶ *and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;*⁷ *and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.*⁸ *For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

¹⁰ “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, *make every effort* to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 1:3—11 NIV, emphasis added).

Peter closed the same letter by saying, “*Grow in the grace and knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen” (2 Peter 3:18 NIV, emphasis added).

Similarly, in Philippians 2:12–13 Paul said that every believer must “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Do you see in those verses how the Spirit of God and you team up together? As God’s Spirit is working in you, you work out, or put into practice, what he is working in. Again, wow! We get to work *with* God to accomplish his purposes in and through us.

The journey of learning and growing in Christ progresses one step at a time, one day at a time, over your lifetime. Let’s take another step.

“And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.”

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Day 1

Prayerfully think about what the verses below mean. Put them into your own words. Write in the margin what they tell us about the Bible, God's word.

- Psalm 119:105—"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

- 2 Timothy 3:14–17—"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 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."

- Record other verses that speak about giving the Word of God a high place of honor in our lives.

I Resolve to give the Word of God the highest place of honor as God's words to me (and to everyone). Through it, God's Spirit instructs me, renews my mind, transforms me to know his will, and empowers me to do his will, living a life that pleases God (Romans 12:2).

Initial your commitment: _____

Day 2

Prayerfully think about what the verses below mean. Paraphrase them in your own words. What are these verses telling us and what should we do about it? Make notes in the margins.

- Romans 15:4—“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
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- 1 Corinthians 10:6–12, emphasis added—“Now *these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.*”⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but *they were written down for our instruction*, on whom the end of the ages has come.¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”
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I Resolve to allow the word of God to instruct and encourage me as I read it.

Initial your commitment: _____

Day 3

Prayerfully think through the verses below. Paraphrase them in your own words.

- 1 Corinthians 15:3–4—“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”
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- Ephesians 1:18–21—“Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”
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Circle the *one event* that is mentioned in both passages. Why is that event important to us?

I Resolve to acknowledge that my hope is an eternal hope rooted in the character and promises of God; rooted in Jesus Christ, his death on the cross, and his resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Initial your commitment: _____

Day 4

Prayerfully think about what the verses below mean. Paraphrase them in your own words.

- Psalm 119:67—“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”

- Psalm 119:71—“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”

- Romans 5:1–5—“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

- James 1:2–4—“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

Don't waste your suffering, especially suffering as a follower of Jesus Christ! Let it have its perfect work in you, making you mature in Christ. Intentionally carry over into your good days the truths you learned from the word of God during the bad days, the hard times in your life.

I Resolve to adopt the biblical perspective that suffering is a means to learn endurance, build character, and gain hope.

Initial your commitment: _____

Day 5

Prayerfully think through each verse below. First, put them into your own words. Then,

underline each action phrase used for *what we are to do* (e.g., “be attentive to my words”).

Then in each passage, squiggly underline (this is the technical term) the phrases that tell us *why* (the reason) we should obey or *the benefits* of obedience, (e.g., “they are life” and “healing to all their flesh”).

➤ Proverbs 4:20–23—

“My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

➤ Philippians 2:12–13—“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Take time now to look up those favorite Bible verses that spoke to you, meditate on them before the Lord. Repent, if necessary, of any neglect of obedience to them. Make up your mind to obey God’s word, living it out every day, not just when you are in desperate need.

Write your prayer of thanksgiving and commitment to the Lord.

I Resolve to treat the Word of God as it truly is, my life, obeying it in the bad days
and the good days, living it out all the days of my life.

Initial your commitment: _____

Resources and Bible Study Tools

Online Study Resources:

Bible Hub— biblehub.com

Bible Gateway— www.biblegateway.com

Blue Letter Bible— www.blueletterbible.org

BibleStudyTools.com— <https://www.biblestudytools.com>

Hard copy Books (These and similar resources may be found in some of the online resources.)

William D. Mounce, *Interlinear for the Rest of Us: The Reverse Interlinear for New Testament Word Studies* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan) 2006

James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers)

Bible Dictionary <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/>

Books

Fearless: Free in Christ in an Age of Anxiety by Rachel Starr Thomson, Mercy Hope, and

Carolyn Currey, Published by 1:11 Ministries. The *Kindle version may still be free for a limited time*. Available on Amazon.com. Search “Rachel Starr Thomson.”

Blog Posts

“Are You Still Fighting Giants?” Blog post by Patricia Holbrook on DebbieWWilson.com

<https://debbiewwilson.com/fighting-giants/>

“Five Things You Should Be Doing with God’s Word” blog post on “Bible Study Tools”, by

Michael J. Kruger <https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/michael-j-kruger/5-things-you-should-be-doing-with-god-s-word.html>

Workshop Survey

The Source of Hope

Please take a moment to answer these questions, tear off the page and leave it with one of the leaders.

1. Was this workshop helpful? _____

2. What question did it answer or what problem did it solve for you?

3. Would you be interested in attending a similar workshop on a different topic in the future?

4. What topic(s) would be of interest to you?

Thank you! Please hand this to one of the workshop leaders.