

“Yakhal (Hope)”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Psalm 39: 7

And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:18b-19

...seize the hope set before us. ¹⁹We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Romans 5:3-4

...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

1 Corinthians 13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do each of these verses have to say about hope?
2. How is hope different than wishful thinking or merely putting a positive spin on things?
3. If despair is defined as “the belief that tomorrow will be just like today,” then how would you define hope, despair’s opposite?
4. The philosopher Nietzsche once said, “He who has a why to live for can endure any how.” Why is hope so crucial to survival?
5. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: There are no hopeless situations, there are only men and women who have grown hopeless about them.
6. It has been said hope and faith are sacred siblings. How are they connected?
7. Paul says that suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope. How do you think character produces hope?

8. Respond to this statement: Your hope is only as good as the object your hope is placed in.
9. Hope is a bit counter-intuitive, it is an active waiting. How is this possible?
10. There is a strong connection in the Scriptures between hope and God's promises. Why do you think that is?