

What is the nature of your hope?



Hope is not a strange word to us and I believe we are quite familiar with expressions containing this word; *hope*.

"I hope things will be better", "I hope we shall all get to heaven", and "I hope the poor will be heard one day", among others are some of the ways of expressing hope.

In the Scripture, there are different forms of expression of hope;

- *Expected end*(Jeremiah 29:11)
- *Expectation in God*(Psalm 42:11)
- *Waiting on God*(Isaiah 40:31)
- *God's preservation*(Psalm 121:7)
- *God's joy and peace*(Romans 15:13)
- *Hope in God's Word*(Psalm 119:114)
- *Hope of Salvation*(Micha 7:7)
- *Hope of His calling*(Ephesians 4:4)

If we are not too familiar with some of those listed above, Hebrews 11:1 must be known terrain.

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

Faith is the *"surety"* or the *"guarantor"* of what we are expecting in the future.

While *"hope"* is always interested in things ahead or the future, faith looks at the past and at the same time projects to the future while appropriating the present.

Thus, hope can be defined as a feeling of expectation or a desire for a certain thing to happen.

From this definition, two words should attract our attention; feeling and desire.

In-depth analyses of these words will show some percentage of *"uncertainty"* or *"doubt"*. This answers the question of *"how realistic hope maybe"*.

"Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace." - 2 Thessalonians 2:16KJV

While some *"hope"* may be uncertain, some are as real as the Word. They can be heard, seen, smelt, touched, and handled. First John 1:1 says:

" That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." - 1John 1:1NIV

What makes some “hope” unique?

The Bible talks about *good man*, *good success*, and *good courage*, among others.

Going by 2 Thessalonians 2:16, there comes “*good hope*”. This is not just a mere adjective as some might be thinking, I want you to know that it is a mark of distinction. It separates and sets apart this unique *hope* from the flow.

“*Good*” indicates lasting, generational, Godly, meaningful, and others. While other “*hope*” might be uncertain, “*good hope*” is sure, certain, and very real.

What are the qualities of “good hope”?

1. It is rooted in Jesus Christ
“..... Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.”- (1 Timothy 1:1KJV)
2. It is in accordance with God’s will
“You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” - (Hebrews 10:36NIV)
3. It is extracted from the Scripture
“Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.” - (Psalm 119: 49 NKJV)
4. It is heartfelt
“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” - (Romans 5:5NIV)
5. It flows unhindered externally
“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” - (1 John 3:3 NKJV)
6. It can be explained and unequivocal
“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.” - (1 Peter 3:15 NLT)
7. It destroys the spirit of fear
“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” - (Psalm 27:1 KJV)

Every believer's “*hope*” is always good and that is what makes the difference.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of all things. First Corinthians 3:11 says:

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.”

Jesus Christ is the sure foundation and whoever is in Him by accepting Him as Lord and Savior qualify to be a partaker of good hope.

Jesus Christ is the only way to lasting and good hope. If you are yet to receive and know Him, accept Him right away and your *dead* hope comes alive.

Remember, one thing is sure; *All hope becomes established with Christ*.

As you begin or continue to hope in Him, may your hope always be *good* and never be in vain.

Jesus Christ is Lord