

Love Hopes All Things

I Corinthians 13:7

The tetralogy *love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things* portrays God's love for believers. To "bear" means "to cover or hide" so that love covers the faults of others. Love also believes in people. The text "love hopes all things" is not "wishful thinking." It conveys *a settled certainty*. Hope is the Greek word *elpizo*. Take "hope" away (*apelpizo*) and you have the word for despair. **Hope is a future certainty grounded in a present reality.** This is how "hope" is used in Scripture. *We wait for our blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior* (Titus 2:13). So, when you love somebody, you have a certainty about the future based upon present realities.

I. My present reality is all about the character and personhood of the One who loves me.

The people who know their God shall be strong and do great things (Daniel 11:35). We believe:

A. My heavenly Father (God) is all powerful.

And now, O Lord, My hope is in you (Psalm 39:7). No matter how bleak things seem.

(He) is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).

*You are mistaken, not understanding the power (Gr. *dunamis*) of God* (Matt. 22:29).

B. My heavenly Father (God) is always good.

God is *summum bonum*, the chiefest good. The original Saxon meaning of our English word "God" is "The Good." *The goodness of God continues eternally* (Psalm 52:1).

When a person does not know God through a relationship with Christ there is no hope.

*... remember that you were at that time **separated from Christ**, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world*** (Ephesians 2:12).

C. My heavenly Father (God) is always powerfully good to me.

This is the present reality upon which we have a future certainty. It's going to be okay.

But someone says, "What do you mean, it's going to be okay? My loss is real and deep!"

*If in this life **only** we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied* (I Cor. 15:19).

In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you (I Peter.3:15).

II. My future certainty flows out of God's love for me and creates love within me.

When you are absolutely convinced of the love of God for you it changes how you live life.

This is why the greatest prayer from Paul is all about God's people apprehending His love.

For this reason I bow my knees ... that you may be able to comprehend ...and know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19).

1. I will not let myself become dependant on the actions of another for my happiness.
2. I will never shut myself off from one who has mistreated me or wronged me.
3. I will recognize that life's events are orchestrated by God for my good and His glory.
4. I will always be conscious and aware that my need for control reveals distrust in God.
5. I will live life with a joy of each present moment and without any fear over the future.

*"Therefore having such **a hope**, we have great boldness"* (II Corinthians 3:12).