

A Word of Hope

This week is an opportunity to take liberties with the conversation. You don't have to stick to the questions if other thoughts arise from a verse. Let the Holy Spirit lead. Enjoy your time together with like-minded brothers and sisters.

Questions:

Isaiah 40:31

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

- 1) What can those of us who wait expect to gain? Does this verse imply we will just get by?
- 2) Besides the rapture, in what other areas of your life are you waiting on the Lord?

Romans 15:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

- 1) In a world so full of doom and gloom, can we pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and maintain hope on our own?
- 2) What do the last five words of this passage tell us?
- 3) Do you feel you are experiencing the abundant hope this verse describes?

Matthew 11:28

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

- 1) Where can the heavy laden, like we're all feeling now, find rest?
- 2) Why then do we more often try to make it through on our own?
- 3) What are other things we lean on to bring us comfort?

Psalms 119:114

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.”

- 1) With a spiritual battle raging in the heavenlies (Ephesians 6:12), how can God being our “hiding place” be reality for the believer?

Hebrews 10:23

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”

- 1) What rapture verses hold the clearest promise of Jesus’ return?
- 2) Discuss scriptures that contain other promises of God that can assist us in hoping without wavering.
- 3) In the KJV, “profession” is used rather than “confession.” What outward action is suggested by both of these words? Is it easy for you to profess your hope to others?

Romans 8:25

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”

- 1) Give specific ways we can “hang in there” when we can’t yet see our deliverance?
- 2) Do you feel you are persevering well?
- 3) According to James 1:12, how will those of us who persevere under trial be blessed?

Micah 7:7

“Therefore I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.”

- 1) With prayer being an often-forgotten avenue of hope, why does it matter to appeal to the Lord through prayer?
- 2) How can prayer help us maintain our hope?

Romans 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

- 1) Why is the love of God the most critical key to maintaining our hope?
- 2) Do you often feel disappointed in the waiting, especially when a high rapture watch time passes?

Psalms 33:22

“Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You.”

- 1) According to this verse, what does God’s mercy have to do with our increased hope?
Clue: The KJV and AMP show how God’s mercy is proportionate to our hope in Him.

- 2) God's mercy toward unbelievers, His desire that all come to a saving faith in Jesus, is what delays His wrath being poured out upon sinful mankind. Discuss how this "delay" gives hope to those with lost family and friends.

Psalm 130:5

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope."

- 1) Do you have one favorite verse that helps you maintain or restore your hope?

1 Peter 3:15

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

- 1) Why does our hope level matter when it comes to being an example to others?
- 2) Do you feel you have hope to share? Can you articulate your hope?

Ephesians 1:18

"...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints..."

- 1) Discuss some things we are "called" to be and do as we wait for the arrival of the Lord.
- 2) What would you say is the "hope of His calling" for you specifically?

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

"[Love] does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

- 1) Iniquity is the perfect word to describe what we see rising in our nation. How can our love for others, loving the sinner without condoning the sin, offer hope to those who currently have no hope?
- 2) How can "rejoicing in the truth" keep us safe in a world that calls evil good and good evil?
- 3) What is our best source to establish the truth?

Psalm 62:5

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him."

- 1) How can we keep our expectations high when day after day passes and we're still here?