

A 14-DAYS DEVOTIONAL

HOPE IN HOPELESS SITUATIONS

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DAY 1

WHAT IS HOPE?



Hope, according to Oxford dictionary, is defined as "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen"; and the Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology defines it as "to trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone; or to expect something beneficial in the future".

Godly hope is therefore, trusting in, waiting for, looking for, and/or expecting that something beneficial will happen by and through divine intervention from God.

According to Joseph Prince, *"hoping in the lord is not like the worldly hope of it may or it may not happen; Godly hope is I'm certain that it will happen!"* That's exactly it. Godly hope is when you can say something like **"I know that I know that I know that God will come through for me."**

Jeremiah 29:11 (AMP) says *"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."* God's plan is for you to have hope and a future. It is not to cause you harm or destroy your future. So whatever it is that you are facing right now, that situation that seems hopeless, God says it is not to destroy you! He is going to see you out of it because His thoughts and plans are to prosper you.

Bible Verse
Jeremiah 29:11

DAY 2

FACING A SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATION?

Are you at a place right now where all you see is darkness, no gleam of light at all, and it feels like all hope is lost? I have been there before. I can recall a particular time when I was down in the pits and felt like my life was totally over. I was in a completely hopeless situation, where only divine intervention could get me out. Family and friends tried to encourage me to have hope that everything would work out but I thought they must be crazy because the situation didn't have any beam of hope attached to it, at least none that I could see. But the bible reminds us in Romans 8:24 that *"hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?"*



So when we place our hope in Jesus, it is not because we know how the situation will work out, but it is because we know that whatever happens, that God has the best plan for us. Having hope in the Lord means we trust Him to take care of us and handle our cares.

In these next couple of days, we will take a closer look at hope – godly hope. I will share my story with you, the day I encountered Jesus and He restored my hope just so I could believe that I would come out of that frightening situation victorious. I pray that this devotional will bless you and bring you back to a place of hope where you become open to hearing from God.

Bible Verses

Isaiah 40:31

Romans 8:24

DAY 3

BROKEN, SHATTERED, SURRENDERED



One minute, life was fine and all glorious, and the next minute, BOOM, disaster struck and I quickly went deep down into the pits of darkness and just knew that life as I knew it was over. There was no hope in sight; all there was around me was darkness, extreme darkness.

I was broken, completely shattered. My soul was shattered into tiny pieces that could not be repaired even if anyone tried. I felt lost and hopeless. I was all alone. Every indication of life within me was gone, completely drained. I felt like a walking zombie: alive but lifeless. You or someone you know may have been in that same position before or even going through it right now; but I want you to be encouraged because it is not the end. I know it may seem like it right now but hold on tight, God is not done yet.

Remember what scripture says in Psalm 46:10 in The Passion Translation:
“Surrender your anxiety! Be silent and stop your striving and you will see that I am God. I am the God above all the nations, and I will be exalted throughout the whole earth.”

Bible Verse

Psalm 46:10

DAY 4

A PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE

In Isaiah 43:2, God promises us that “when we go through deep waters, He will be with us. When we go through rivers of difficulty, we will not drown. When we walk through the fire of oppression, we will not be burned up; the flames will not consume us.”

I love the way the Message (MSG) bible puts it. It says *“But now, God’s Message, the God who made you in the first place, Jacob, the One who got you started, Israel: “Don’t be afraid, I’ve redeemed you. I’ve called your name. You’re mine. When you’re in over your head, I’ll be there with you. When you’re in rough waters, you will not go down. When you’re between a rock and a hard place, it won’t be a dead end— Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. I paid a huge price for you...That’s how much you mean to me! That’s how much I love you! I’d sell off the whole world to get you back, trade the creation just for you.”*

In this scripture, you are Israel that God is talking about. Just take a moment to ponder on that. God, the God Who created the entire universe says to you, don’t lose hope; don’t be afraid, I am here for you. I want you to go through today and even the rest of this week with Isaiah 43:2 in your mind, meditating on it, and I pray that the Lord will give you a personal revelation of that Word in Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Bible Verses

Isaiah 43:2

Isaiah 43:1-4 MSG

DAY 5

HIS WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS

Before he left for work that morning, my husband dropped me and our kids off at my mother's house because I couldn't bear to be alone; he gave me a book "Power Through Constructive Thinking" by Emmet Fox and said, "I think you should read this book." At that time I had no idea what the book was really about except that it was some form of spiritual book. For years my husband had actually tried to get me to read it but I always refused thinking it was some type of weird spiritual book that I had no interest in getting into (my husband reads a lot of books on spirituality, some that I consider not to be in align with Christianity).



But something was different on that Labor Day Monday morning. I guess I figured well I have nothing else to do, nowhere to go, nothing to lose so I might as well read it. Or maybe I just didn't have the strength in me to argue about the book this time, but whatever it was; it worked because I took the book with the intention to read it.

Sometimes we don't know what the Holy Spirit will use to reach us. His ways are limitless and most times our healing comes from the most unlikely source. That's why it says in 1 Corinthians 1:27, that "***God uses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise and the weak things of the world to confound the strong.***"

Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 1:27

DAY 6

HELP ME LORD!

Even in that place of hopelessness, I want you to know this truth that God will find you and meet you right where you are. He is a loving Father who wants to comfort His children. All you have to do is cry out to Him for help.

Sometimes all we can say in moments like that is “*Lord, save me*”, or “*Lord, help me.*” Even Peter knew this in the book of Matthew 14:30. This in itself is a powerful prayer, and sometimes that’s all you need to say and God steps in and begins to infuse you with hope, with life, and with the truth. It might be just a flicker of hope but that is enough to boost you up and get you to a place where you start believing again, where your faith begins to rise.

Bible Verses

Matthew 14:30

Hebrews 11:1

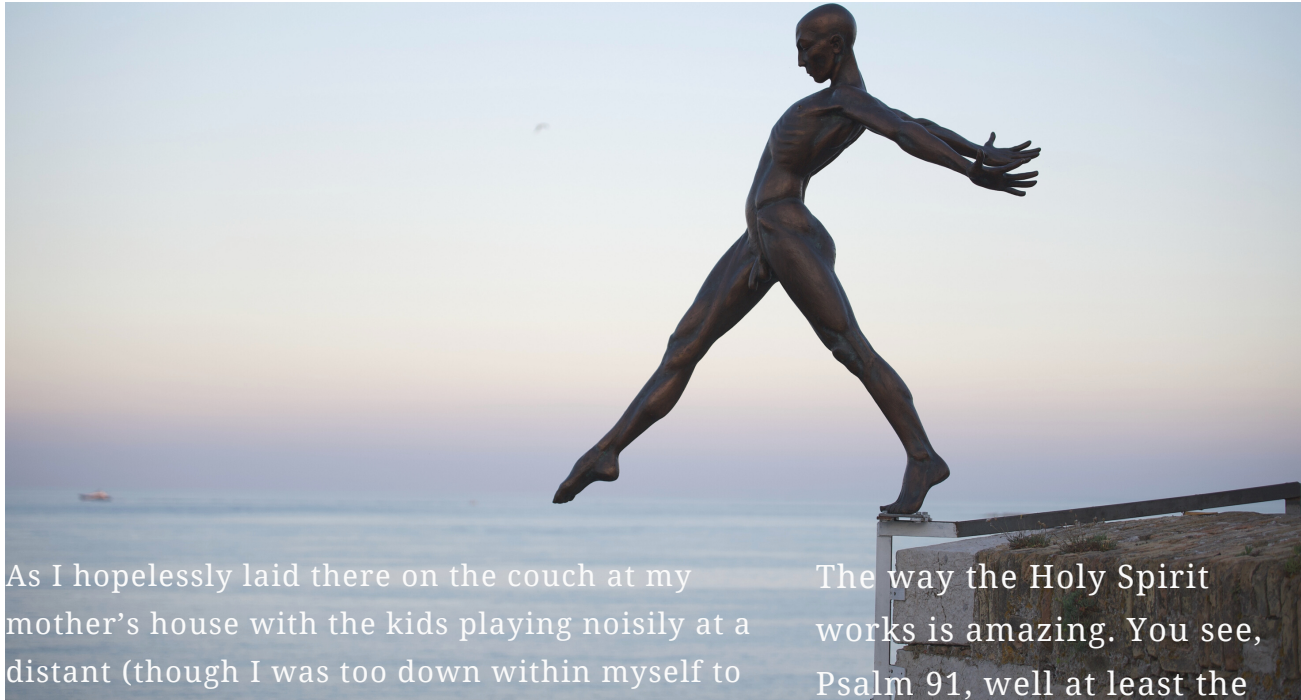
Hebrews 11:1 in the Amplified Bible reminds us that “*Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].*”

Let me draw your attention to what it says about hope – it says hope is a divine guarantee! Your hope in the Lord is a divine guarantee that the dark situation you are facing right now will be turned into good for you.



DAY 7

OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE



As I hopelessly laid there on the couch at my mother's house with the kids playing noisily at a distant (though I was too down within myself to even hear them), I didn't even realize when I opened the book my husband had given me and started reading it. And I also didn't even start from the beginning of the book. Instead, I opened it up to a chapter in the middle of the book that was about Psalm 91.

If I can summarize this book, it is somewhat of a commentary or deeper explanation on some popular bible passages. All the years my husband had tried to get me to read that same book, I always refused because I didn't feel comfortable with it, thinking it was some book on spiritual things that wasn't based on God's Word. I admit, I judged the book without even giving it a chance or even reading the summary. But like I mentioned before, my husband likes to read all types of books on spirituality.

The way the Holy Spirit works is amazing. You see, Psalm 91, well at least the

first verse has always been a bible verse that I heard over and over again in church and I would often pray with it saying, "Lord I want to be in Your secret place." Psalm 91:1 says ***"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."***

Bible Verse

Psalm 91:1

DAY 8

ENCOUNTERING THE LORD

I can't even tell you at what point of my reading it happened but I kid you not, suddenly I felt a flicker of hope rising from deep within me. Something shifted in my spirit (though I didn't recognize it at that time). Something in me actually started believing that God was speaking to me and about me in Psalm 91 as the book explained. I thought to myself, could it be true? Have you ever asked yourself that same question when you read a verse in the bible? Like, God can't possibly be talking about me, could He?

I want you to know that yes, God is talking to you and about you. Every promise in the bible pertains to you and I. God wants you to get to a place where you become open to hearing from Him; a place where you want to spend time in His presence and in His Word. And He knows that the only way for you to get there is through infusing hope back into you and into the situation you may be going through. So that you can stand and say confidently ***"I am counting on the Lord; yes, I am counting on him. I have put my hope in his word"*** – Psalm 130:5.

God desires to help us, and He will but our hearts also has to be ready. God knew I was at the end of myself. He knew I was now at a place where I can totally surrender my heart to Him, so He showed up. So, don't give up just yet. Continue to dig into the Word of God and don't be afraid to use other Faith-related resources because you just never know what God will use to enlighten and reveal Himself to you. Remember, ***"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"*** (Romans 10:17).



Bible Verses

Psalm 130:5, Romans 10:17

DAY 9

IS THERE REALLY HOPE FOR ME?

Reading that book by Emmet Fox, his explanation of the entire Psalm 91 and of course the Holy Spirit adding His Light and bringing the words to life, made me realize that there may be hope for me after all. I started believing that God will actually help me.

Know today, that there is hope! I will say it again, there is hope! DO NOT GIVE UP! You might be facing the biggest most devastating storm of your life right now but don't give up, hang in there because the Lord is on His way to help you. No matter the situation, the mistakes you have made in the past, the pain, the hurt, the betrayal, the unfairness, the injustice, know that all is not lost, hope will rise again.

Bible Verse

Romans 8:28

Romans 8:28 says *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* So God takes all our hurts and pains and turns it into something good that ends up working in our favor; something that will strengthen you, build you, and help you grow and become better than you ever were.



DAY 10

WHERE THERE IS LIFE, THERE IS HOPE



I know you feel like you can't go on another day but listen, as long as you are alive; there is hope for a turnaround. The fact that you are here, living and breathing, the fact that you are reading this devotional means that God is not done with you. I have been there and I can attest to it.

Don't quit just yet. Don't throw in the towel yet. God is not done with you. He has not left you and He will never leave you nor abandon you. It says so in His Word in Deuteronomy 31:6 (NLT) ***“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”*** And again in Hebrews 13:5 (AMP), He said ***“I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!”***

Bible Verses

Deuteronomy 31:6,
Hebrews 13:5

DAY 11

THE LIES OF THE ENEMY

That voice that you are hearing telling you that it is over, saying to you that you should give up, saying that you blew it and God will not help you now, I want you to recognize that voice as the voice of the enemy.

Remember, satan is not on your side. He knows that if he can get you to give up, then he can defeat you and take everything from you – and that is not what you want, that is not what I want for you, and most importantly, that is not what God wants for you.

Jesus said in John 10:10 (AMP), ***“The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].”*** Jesus came so that you and I may have and enjoy life; so again I want to remind you that there is hope.

Bible Verse

John 10:10



DAY 12

GET UP!

So get up! Yes! Get up! Lift your head up, dry up your tears, put on your boxing gloves and let's go! We have a battle against the enemy to win. The bible says, the devil goes around like a roaring lion looking for whom to devour (see 1 Peter 5:8), but I got news for the devil, before he destroys you and I, we will destroy him! In fact, he has already been defeated by the precious blood of Jesus and victory is yours and mine, secured in the Lord! Hallelujah!

Revelations 12:11 (AMP) tells us *“And they (you and I) overcame and conquered him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, for they did not love their life and renounce their faith even when faced with death.”* You see, YOU WILL OVERCOME!



Bible Verses

1 Peter 5:8

Revelations 12:11 (AMP)

DAY 13

HOPE IN THE LORD



Today, be encouraged by this scripture:

*“We put our hope in the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord,
for our hope is in you alone.”*

-Psalm 33:20-22

As long as you have invited Jesus into your life, and have placed your hope in Him alone, then you can rest assured that no matter how daunting, gloomy, or scary the situation is, you will come out of it victorious. He is your help and shield and He will not fail you. You will rejoice again and shout for joy as He surrounds you with His unfailing love. Remember, “Many hardships and perplexing circumstances confront the righteous, But the Lord rescues him from them all” - Psalm 34:19.

Bible Verses

Psalm 33:20-22, Psalm 34:19

DAY 14

A PRAYER FOR YOU



And I pray for you, in accordance with Apostle Paul in the book of Romans 15:13 AMP & Ephesians 1:18-19 respectively:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promise and I also pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which God has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe,” Amen.

I want you to repeat these positive affirmations now and always:

**I am victorious!
I am redeemed!
I am vindicated!
I am strong!
I am courageous!
I am more than a conqueror!
I am righteous!
I am relevant!
I am the child of the Most High God!
I am wonderfully and fearfully made!
I win!**

Bible Verses

**Romans 15:13
Ephesians 1:18-19**