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**The Need for Hope**

Dr. David DeWitt

*But now abide faith,* ***hope****, love, these three and the greatest of these is love* (1 Corinthians 13:13)*.*

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Since it is not possible for us humans to live without desires and expectations about the future, it is not wise to attempt to do so. When those ever-present desires and inevitable expectations overlap, we have hope. And…**we cannot live without hope.**

That’s’ why we wrote this material. Since we can’t live without hope, we should try to understand it.

**Defining Hope**

The word *hope* occurs 140 times in the Bible.

**Hope is desired expectation**

***Hope*** is*:* ***a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.***

***Desire*** is: *a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen*.

***Expectation*** is: *a strong belief that something will happen or be the case in the future*

[These definitions are from the Mac Pro dictionary. All the emphases in all quotations in this paper are ours.]

A.W.Tozer wrote: “Hope is the music of the whole Bible… **Hope means a desirable expectation,** a pleasurable anticipation (The Tozer Pulpit, p 40).”

**Applications**

1. **We cannot live without hope**. [Every living being has desires, but that is not sufficient. I cannot live without also having some future desires which I expect will happen.]
2. **Someone without hope, or someone who denies that they need hope, is dysfunctional.** [Without expected future desires we will be despondent, grumpy, ornery, mean spirited, depressed, discouraged, or suicidal.]
3. **Hope governs our investments.** [Since we invest in our hope, our investments reveal our hope.]
4. **Hope and love do not contradict one another, they complement one another**. [Hope without love leads to futility, love without hope leads to depression.]
5. **Hope is what supplies life’s motivation.** [It’s the fizz in life’s soda pop. Without it life is boring, uninteresting, or intolerable. It’s hope that gets us out of bed in the morning.]
6. **Temporal hope is valuable when it is connected to eternal hope**. [Temporal hope is essential and valuable, unless it is tied only to this world and not to eternal hope.]
7. **Hope prioritizes our decision-making.** [When I hope for something (a car, a spouse, a house, an education, maturity, or eternal life) that prioritizes all of my daily decisions.]
8. **The further my hope is projected into the future, the more it clarifies my present thinking**. [The further I look down the road, the straighter I will drive.]

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