

HOPE IS COMING DEVOTIONAL

By Madeleine Wiedemann

WEEK 3

HOPE CAN FUEL US TODAY

“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”

1 John 4:18 (NLT)

“Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?
I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Savior and my God!”

Psalm 42:5 (NLT)

“But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.”

1 Thess 5:8 (NIV)

“As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thess 1:3 (NLT)

“And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.”

Titus 2:12-13 (NLT)

“This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God’s inner sanctuary. Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 6:19-20 (NLT)

The God of Hope is with us, so whatever disappointment or fear we face, we have a God who is truly in it with us, promising to bring us closer to Him. Fear diminishes hope, but God’s perfect love drives out fear, with Hope as a banner (1 John 4:18). Sometimes, we don’t feel hopeful, but we can preach to our souls, reminding them to hope, just like David did (Psalm 42:5).

But hope isn’t just for us; hope should fuel us to go out and witness to the hopeless world around us. The more hope we gain, the more we want others to experience it. There is enough hope for everyone; our only fear ought to be for those who may miss out on it.

Without God’s hope, the world is stuck in the sinking sand of false hope, because the relationships people seek acceptance in fail them, the careers they seek success and achievement in leave them empty and the evidence of hopelessness in the form of addiction, grief and mental health becomes rife around them. These things ought to fire us up to want to share the hope we have. But we can just as easily get caught in hopelessness when we forget to fuel ourselves with God’s hope and instead fall into the traps of busy-ness, cynicism and the promises of hope the world provides us.

We need to reject the world’s offers of hope and seek God for hope to share with the world drowning around us. It’s a step of faith to speak hope in a world falling apart when we know our own struggles with hopelessness. But God calls us to be preachers of hope to a fallen world so we need to find that true Hope that God provides and fuel up so we can share it!

Get to know Hope better so you can share in all its benefits! Hope can protect us (1 Thess 5:8), help us endure (1 Thess 1:3, Titus 2:12), anchor us to Jesus in our faith, and provide a firm foundation to support us when life doesn’t make sense or feels hopeless (Hebrews 6:19-20).

REFLECTIONS

- *Do you preach hope to yourself in the dark times? How can you do this in the future?*
- *Do you preach hope to the world? Would living with more hope for yourself empower you to share hope with the world?*
- *How can you anchor your hope/heart/soul in Christ this Christmas season?*

CHALLENGE

Each morning, write hope on the back of your hand or set yourself a reminder for later in the day to challenge you not to just live with hope once a week but at all times!