

April 03/04, 2010
Hope Lives

Hope Lives...Through Faith...In Love!

1 Corinthians 13:7

1. When we know that God loves us, we put our faith in Him, then hope lives in us. *1 John 4:15-16; Matthew 7:11*

We don't have to surrender to feelings of hopelessness if we feed our faith by reminding ourselves of how much He loves us. Feelings are often not factual!

2. Jesus Christ came to earth to prove to us that God is love and to prove how much He loves us.

He stepped into numerous "hopeless" situations to prove to us that when we have faith in His love and His power, no one and nothing is hopeless. *Matthew 8:1-3, 14-16*

3. Even the most hopeless situations, ones that seemed to have no positive possibility of a happy ending, weren't hopeless when Christ got involved.

Luke 7:11-15

Even Jesus' disciples battled with feelings of hopelessness when they watched Him be crucified and die. Death can do that to all of us! But once again, Jesus proved hope lives through faith in love!

Mark 16:1-8a, 9-14

4. Jesus didn't lie. He died, He was buried, but He's alive! Because He lives...Hope lives for all who have faith in His love. *Mark 16:6-7;*

1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Romans 4:25, John 11:25-26

Faith Facts When Feeling Hopeless:

1) Through faith in Jesus Christ not even our worst problem, including our death or the death of someone we love, is hopeless! Because He lives...Hope Lives! *Romans 8:28; Romans 8:35; Romans*

8:37; Romans 8:38-39; Romans 4:25; Romans 5:8-10; John 5:24

2) Through faith in Jesus Christ, I am not hopeless! I can change and so can my life! *2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6; 2 Corinthians*

3:18; Romans 8:11; Ephesians 3:20

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Romans 15:13

Here's how hope can live in you:

Romans 10:9-10 - *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time from your life when you felt hopeless. How did faith in God's love for you produce hope and the grace you needed to get through it?

2. Why do you think we, like the disciples, wrestle with so much unbelief when God has proven repeatedly how much He loves us?

3. What area of your life do you struggle to believe that God can change? Are you feeling hopeless about it?