



## **Lesson Six: Biblical Examples of Hope.**

**Introduction.** As we move toward the conclusion of our study of what the Bible teaches about hope, it is fitting for us to look to some examples in Scripture of men and women who demonstrated hope in different situations and challenges.

**I. Three Types of Examples.** The following men and women fall into three categories of hope.

*A. Those in Need of Healing.*

1. The woman with a flow of blood hoped for Jesus' healing (Matt. 9:19-22).
2. The Capernaum centurion hoped Jesus would heal his servant (Matt. 8:5-13).
3. Two blind men in Jericho hoped Jesus would give them sight (Matt. 20:29-34).
  - a. We are not promised these types of miraculous healings in this age, but when Christians face the need for spiritual healing, hope placed in Christ will never disappoint.

*B. Those Hoping for Something Better.*

1. Hannah hoped God would give her a child (1 Sam. 1:9-18).
2. Abraham, "contrary to hope" believed that God would fulfill His promise to make him a "father of many nations" (Rom. 4:16-18).
  - a. Even when it might seem unreasonable or "contrary to hope" to have hope, God is able to make circumstances and situations we face better—if not in this life, in the life which is to come for those in Christ.

*C. Those Hoping for God's Salvation.*

1. Paul suffered for his "hope" in the promises of God to Israel (Acts 26:6-7).
2. David rested in hope that God would not leave his soul in Sheol (Psa. 16:9-10). This had prophetic allusion to the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:26).
  - a. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that Christians, like David can also rest in hope of salvation when this life comes to an end.

**II. Hope in the Book of Job.** The book of Job makes numerous references to hope. For a book recording the trials of this great man of faith to speak so often of hope offers some powerful lessons and examples.

- A. As Job faced trials, at times he felt hopeless (Job 6:8-11; 7:4-6; 14:7-10; 14:16-20; 17:14-16; 19:8-11). Even the faithful sometimes get discouraged.
- B. Job's friends thought that Job's suffering was because of some sin in his life. It was not, but his friend Eliphaz said correctly that integrity grants the faithful hope (Job 4:4-6). Job maintained hope through his trials (Job 19:23-27).

**Conclusion.** Examples of men and women in Scripture demonstrating hope show us that we too should rest our hope in God. God grants spiritual healing. God can improve a hopeless situation. God, in Christ will grant salvation to those who rest their hope in Him through faithful obedience to the gospel. While even the faithful may face discouragement and feel hopeless at times, those who serve the Lord will not abandon the ultimate hope they place in God for deliverance and salvation in the age to come.

### Discussion Questions

1. How was the Centurion's confidence in Jesus demonstrated (Matt. 8:5-13)? \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Jesus say about this? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does this tell us about how the Lord views our confident hope in His promises? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did those around the blind men in Jericho respond to their demonstration of hope (Matt. 20:29-34)? \_\_\_\_\_  
How do people react to Christians who express a hope in the promises of God or a hope for spiritual healing in the lives of those who are lost? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How was Hannah treated because of her childlessness (1 Sam. 1:1-8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Our culture is different from this, but are there ways our world can make women in this condition feel bad in a similar way? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why would Paul say that Abraham's trust in God's promises to him was "contrary to hope" (Rom. 4:16-18; cf. Heb. 11:11-12)? \_\_\_\_\_  
What might be some ways in which Christians might have hope "contrary to hope"? \_\_\_\_\_
5. List examples of some promises God made to Israel that Paul may be considering when he speaks of being judged for his hope in the promises of God to Israel (Acts 26:6-7). \_\_\_\_\_
6. As David's words in Psalm 16:9-10 apply to Jesus we could not say properly that Jesus *hoped* for resurrection—He knew the power He held over death (John 10:18). Explain how this is used in Peter's application of this passage in Acts 2:26. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who does Job say that he knows "lives" and what is his confidence in this one who lives (Job 19:23-27)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who is this? \_\_\_\_\_

