



Hope smiles @ tomorrow!

[HOPE n 1: **someone (or something) on which expectations are centered**; 2: one of the three virtues (1 Cor. 13); v 1: be optimistic, be full of hope, have hopes; 2: intent with some possibility of fulfillment.]

Prov. 31:25

Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure; she rejoices over the future [the latter day or time to come, knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it!] (Amplified)

"When we hope in God, our spirit is receptive to His perspective. We start to see God's view of things."

...Why would this woman be so optimistic? Why would she 'smile' or 'laugh' at tomorrow?

- *She takes care of 'today' knowing it prepares the future*
- *She knows who holds the future and does not fear it*
- *She believes in God's goodness*

Because she knew her God and feared Him, she had great purpose both in the present and the future. She had HOPE!

Hope is not mindless. It is expectant anticipation of what God has in store. Some may think that hope is a dangerous emotion as it may lead us past our reality into a place of ignorance; you know: 'the head stuck in the sand' kind of mentality. That is not hope ... that is denial! Hope sees what is in front of them and then sees 'what could be'. Hope sees the possibility of God. It is the seed of faith, for without it there is nothing to believe in (Hebrews 11:1). Hope looks past circumstances, and sees answers; past diagnosis and sees the faithfulness of God. Hope remembers and then trusts again, for it looks at life with spiritual eyes (Lamentations 3:21-24).

Hope smiles...

At the past

- ***We can face up to our failures & successes. For God is our redeemer! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities... Who redeems your life from destruction... (Psalm 103:2-4; Lamentations 3:21-24)***

At the present

- ***...and rests in God's care. "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. (Matthew 6:28-30)***

"Eternity gives perspective on today."

At the future

- ***...with great expectation! For God promises His blessing for those that love Him and are after Him and then to their descendants! Let's look at Jeremiah 29:11 from the Young's Literal Translation: "For I (God) have known the thoughts that I am thinking towards you -- an affirmation of Jehovah; thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give to you posterity and hope. (posterity means: Future generations; All of a person's descendants.) God not only wants to give us, personally 'a future' but all of our descendants as well!***

We are Changed!

When we learn to smile @ tomorrow we:

- **know that we are free from the past!** – we no longer worry about being wounded or trapped again, because we have faced it and have allowed God to heal and forgive... ([John 8:36](#))
- **love more** – fear is absent, so love flourishes ([1 John 4:18](#))
- **see differently** – we see a bigger picture, and look for potential in people and circumstances.
- **think like Christ** – for this is how He thinks! ([Philippians 2:5](#))
- **worship with growing passion** – we fall madly in love with our faithful, loving Father who proves Himself over & over!
- **speak blessing** – we become encouragers to other's destinies... even our own.
- **take risks** – we do not respond in fear, but with courage and creativity and great imagination. ([Joshua 1:9](#))
- **work vigorously** – we anticipate the fruit from even menial tasks. ([Proverbs 31:31](#))
- **Relax!** – we know that our trust is in God. It is He who sustains, protects, and provides for tomorrow. ([Isaiah 26:3](#))

"It's amazing what a smile can do!"

READ THESE 'HOPE' PASSAGES OUTLOUD. WE NEED TO REMIND OURSELVES OFTEN OF GOD'S TRUSTWORTHINESS...

1. **Psalm 16:9**
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in **hope**.
[Psalm 16:8-10](#) (in Context) [Psalm 16](#) (Whole Chapter)
2. **Psalm 31:24**
Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who **hope** in the LORD.
3. **Psalm 42:11**
Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? **Hope** in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.
4. **Psalm 71:5**
For You are my **hope**, O Lord GOD; You are my trust from my youth.
[Psalm 71:4-6](#) (in Context) [Psalm 71](#) (Whole Chapter)
5. **Psalm 71:14**
But I will **hope** continually, And will praise You yet more and more.
[Psalm 71:13-15](#) (in Context)
6. **Psalm 119:114**
You are my hiding place and my shield; I **hope** in Your word.
[Psalm 119:113-115](#) (in Context)
7. **Psalm 146:5**
Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose **hope** is in the LORD his God,
[Psalm 146:4-6](#) (in Context) [Psalm 146](#) (Whole Chapter)
8. **Psalm 147:11**
The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who **hope** in His mercy.
[Psalm 147:10-12](#) (in Context) [Psalm 147](#) (Whole Chapter)
9. **Proverbs 10:28**
The **hope** of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.
[Proverbs 10:27-29](#) (in Context)
10. **Jeremiah 17:7**
" Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose **hope** is the LORD.
[Jeremiah 17:6-8](#) (in Context)