



The Result of Our Hope

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WHEN HAS
THE PROMISE
OF A REWARD
HELPED
YOU FACE A
CHALLENGE?

The
POINT >

We will one day receive all
we hope for in Christ.

> 1 PETER 5:5b-11

⁵ All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. ⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

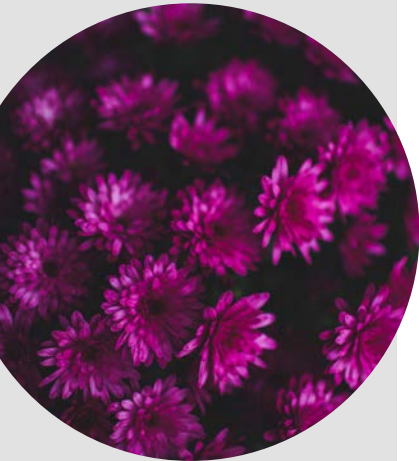
¹⁰ The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while. ¹¹ To him be dominion forever. Amen.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Anticipation is a powerful and healthy emotion that brings real happiness to our lives.¹ It's always a good idea to spend some time looking forward to good things in the future.



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

God is loving and righteous, grieves the impact of sin on the world, and will one day make right all that sin has damaged.

In our church family, there's a young lady who's faced more than her fair share of hardships. Sofia's mom was a single mom and wasn't a protective or good role model for her and her eight siblings. As Sofia grew older, she was passed around to multiple family members and had few skills and little education to help her as she became a young, teen mother.

When we hear of a situation like this, our first response is probably sympathy. And this is really sad; however, the last thing Sofia would want is for you to feel sad for her. These facts aren't the end of her story. She recently became a part of our church and has not only given her life to Christ, but she's back in school, making healthy decisions for herself and her daughter, and is headed in a new, healthy direction. She will bear the scars of the past for the rest of her life, but Sofia knows that she's been forgiven and is learning to offer forgiveness to those who hurt her. Rather than sadness, Sofia continually expresses a joy that few others know.

Because Christians have received eternal life and the promise of heaven, we have hope. We can know for sure that, no matter how difficult life is, one day these trials will end and we'll experience joy and peace for eternity.

1 PETER 5:5b-7

1 Why is pride such a big deal when God examines our hearts?

2 What's the difference between taking pride in your hard work and being prideful?



The devil is certainly strong, but Jesus—the object of our faith—is stronger. He provides the foundation for our resistance. #BSFLHope

1 PETER 5:8-9

3 How would you describe the way the devil works in our culture?

4 How can believers stay sober-minded and alert to the devil's attacks?

5 List a few ways you can actively resist the devil's temptations in your life.

1 PETER 5:10-11

6 In what ways have you experienced strength and support from God?

7 How does your hope for eternity influence your everyday life?

8 In what ways do you look forward to God restoring, establishing, strengthening, and supporting you in the future?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

God is loving and righteous, grieves the impact of sin on the world, and will one day make right all that sin has damaged.

According to God's original design, people were free from the effects of sin and lived in an intimate relationship with our Creator. Because of our disobedience, people were cut off from a relationship with God and cursed by sin. But for those who trust in Christ for salvation, we can be restored in our relationship with God.

> CHRIST

Jesus went through the most difficult experiences imaginable, yet He remained focused on the joy that was on the other side of His crucifixion. For us, hope is like this. Though we face difficulties, we are called to set our hope on eternity.

9 How can you make sure to maintain an eternal perspective, even when life is overwhelming?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

Talk with a leader or trusted friend this week—ask him or her for suggestions about how to live and think like this.



> COMMUNITY

There are Christians all over the world who are persecuted for their faith.

10 Make it a point every day this week to pray for fellow believers who are suffering. Pray for:

- > boldness to continue living for Jesus.
- > wisdom to know how to live in the face of persecution.
- > efforts to share the gospel to be effective.
- > those who gather for worship in secret for fear of being killed or arrested.
- > those who are imprisoned for the sake of the gospel.

> CULTURE

We are surrounded by people who haven't committed their lives to Christ. This week, though you may fear persecution or rejection on some level, commit to sharing your testimony and the gospel with someone who is lost.

11 What do you fear will happen if you share your faith boldly?

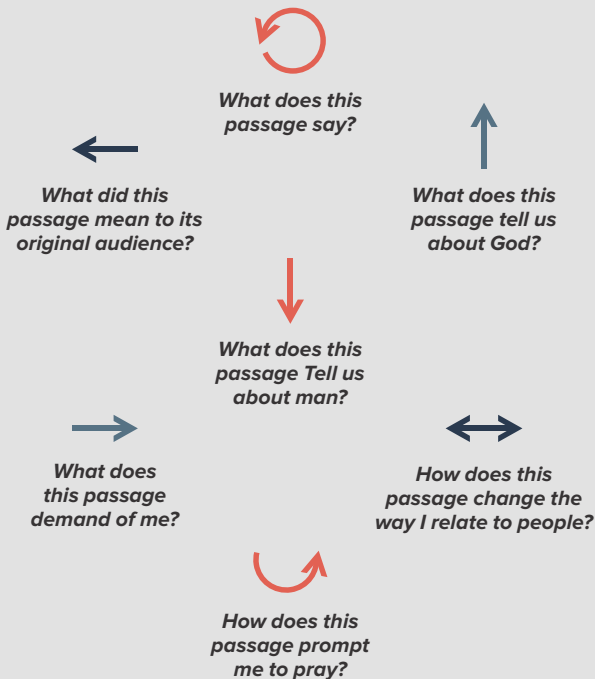
12 How might God make a difference, despite your apprehension, if you share your faith?

Commit to sharing! God uses us to reach the lost.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One HEBREWS 11:1

People often think of faith in terms of “blind faith”—that we must believe with no evidence whatsoever. But this isn’t the case. Instead, we are called to trust in Christ, who demonstrated in very real ways the truth about God. We can look to history, observing that Jesus is the fulfillment of many prophecies, and we can understand that God will fulfill His promises. We can see the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives that have been transformed as a result of trusting in Christ. We can read God’s Word and be fully convinced that it is true. Believing based on these things certainly isn’t blind faith, but it’s also not belief based on empirical evidence. Many people claim, “I have to see it to believe it.” If we’re looking for this standard, we’ll never believe. This isn’t the way God works. But if we hear God’s promises and long for the blessing guaranteed to those who trust in Christ, our hope will be made reality if we choose to believe wholeheartedly in God’s promises.

➤ **Why is faith in Christ different than a seeing-is-believing reality?**

➤ **What convinced you to trust in Jesus?**

Day Two

HEBREWS 11:2



People have often wondered how people in Old Testament times were saved or forgiven of their sins. After all, sin has separated all people from God, and the only way for us to be restored is by the blood of Jesus. Today, we look back to the cross and trust in Jesus' sacrifice as the payment for our sins, and we are saved. For the Old Testament faithful, though Jesus hadn't yet died for the sins of the world, they knew of God's promises to send the Savior. By faith in God's promise to send a Redeemer to pay the price for sin, our ancestors were approved by God.

- **What is necessary for us to receive God's approval?**

- **How specifically is God calling you to demonstrate your faith in Jesus?**

Day Three

HEBREWS 11:3

Scripture teaches that God is spirit (John 4:24). When we think of a person, we often think first of physical attributes—the fact that a person is a material being—and that we all happen to have a spirit. Yet this is a reversal of the truth. God is a person, not because He has a body (in fact, He doesn't have a body), but because He is a spirit. And the same applies to us, except that we have a body. The world has all sorts of loony perspectives about the origin of the universe, but for those who trust in Christ, we come to believe the Biblical account of creation. Though God is immaterial, He is infinite in wisdom and power and from nothing created all that exists. God has a great purpose for all He's created. One of those purposes is that all creation testifies about the power and glory of God and helps people to believe in Him.

- **What does it mean that God is spirit?**

- **How would you describe the origin and purpose of creation?**

Day Four

HEBREWS 11:39-40

Hebrews 11:4-38 gives a long list of Old Testament believers who lived out their faith in bold ways. Though they never saw the fulfillment of God's promises, their faith was just as real as ours today. But Scripture teaches here that God provided something better for New Testament believers. That "something better" is Christ Himself. Through the law and the prophets, God had revealed all people needed to know in order to live in a relationship with God. However, Jesus, the exact representation of the glory of God, is a clearer, better revelation of the person of God. All believers—those who trust in Christ, Old and New Testaments alike—make up the family of God.

- **How have you received the promises of God?**

- **Why is Jesus "something better" than what people in the Old Testament received?**

Day Five

HEBREWS 12:1-2



All the believers mentioned in Chapter 11 lived by faith, crossed the finish line, and now give testimony to the fact that it was worth all the struggle. The life of faith is much like an endurance race. It can seem long and grueling at times, and we may be tempted to give up. Yet all those who have gone before, through the pages of Scripture, provide the encouragement we need to press on. God provided the strength they needed to endure, and they are now in the presence of God. When we follow their example, and ultimately, the example of Jesus who endured the cross in sight of His future glory, God will provide us with the strength and encouragement we need, and He will reward us with the ultimate prize of eternal life.

- **Why is encouragement so important in the Christian life?**

- **What about heaven do you hope for the most?**