

God with Us

God with Us Brings Hope

Romans 15:12-13 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • December 2, 2018

Biblical hope is not described as a wish, but as peace based on fact, and a trust and faith based on God.

Hope is only as good as the object or person(s) in which we place our hope.

Our hope is based on what God says

God is with us! (Matthew 1:23)

He is with us everywhere we go.

Psalm 139:7–12 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.*

Our hope is not in an imaginary God or a God who is fickle, it is in a God who will be with us no matter where we go or how we behave. **Matthew 28:20**

Our hope is based on who God is

Hope must be on a person of good character.

Jesus heals a sick woman (**Mark 5:25-34**)

He has compassion on us.

He travels with the lowly and needy.

He does not become bothered nor annoyed with us.

Our hope is based on what God does

God is faithful.

Gratitude breeds hope.

Thankfulness fosters hope.

Acknowledgment and appreciation bring hope.

Do you ever think that one day God is going to let you dangle at the end of the rope and NOT rescue you?

Lamentations 3:21–23 *Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Focusing on gratitude can renew and grow our hope.

Sharing this gratitude and hope with others can multiply its effects.

Romans 15:12–13 *And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Take this with you...

Do I sense God is with me right now?

Do I believe He is not annoyed with me right now?

Do I know that He will be with me because He has proven His presence in the past?

How can I share this hope with someone this week?