

HOW BEING ANCHORED TO GOD'S WORD IS THE KEY TO HOPE

The Key to Hope
Rick Warren

"It is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:18-19 (NIV)

"My soul is weak from waiting for you to save me. My hope is based on your word." Psalm 119:81 (GW)

"Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth." Ephesians 4:14 (NLT)

"A doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind." James 1:6 (TLB)

3 INTERNAL DOUBTS THAT CAUSE HOPELESSNESS

- When your Identity is *unclear*
- When your Purpose is *undefined*
- When your Future is *uncertain*

HOW TO LIVE WITH HOPE, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

1. ANCHOR MY IDENTITY TO _____

"From one human being he created all races of people. . . . He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt around for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us . . . 'In him we live and move and exist.'" Acts 17:26-28 (GNT)

"We know that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own." 1 Thessalonians 1:4 (GNT)

God Says: I Am Valuable (Deuteronomy 7:6), Acceptable (Titus 3:7), Chosen (Ephesians 1:4), Loved and Loveable (Jeremiah 31:3), Forgiven (Romans 8:1), Capable (2 Corinthians 3:5-6), Worth Dying for (Romans 5:8), Unforgettable (Isaiah 49:16)

"May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ." 2 Thessalonians 3:5 (NLT)

2. ANCHOR MY LIFE MISSION TO _____

"David served God's purposes in his own time, and then he died." Acts 13:36 (GNT)

Paul: *"I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell people the Good News about God's grace." Acts 20:24 (NCV)*

"They asked Jesus, 'Lord, are you now going to give the kingdom back to Israel?' Jesus said to them, 'The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.'" Acts 1:6-8 (NCV)

"The apostles had a single purpose as they devoted themselves to prayer. They were joined by some women." Acts 1:14 (GW)

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." Acts 2:17-18 (NIV)

3. ANCHOR MY FUTURE TO _____

Peter (quoting David): *"The Lord always before my face, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. . . . My flesh will also rest in hope, because you will not leave my soul in Hades." Acts 2:25–27 (PHILLIPS)*

Paul: *"I have the same hope in God that they have—the hope that all people, good and bad, will surely be raised from the dead." Acts 24:15 (NCV)*

"We want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him." 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (GNT)

"We should wear faith and love as a breastplate to protect us, and the hope of salvation should be our helmet." 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NCV)

Acts 27: Story of Paul's Shipwreck

"For a number of days we couldn't see the sun or the stars. The storm wouldn't let up. It was so severe that we finally began to lose any hope of coming out of it alive." Acts 27:20 (GW)

A BLESSING FOR YOU

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father encourage you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. God loved us, and through his grace he gave us a good hope and encouragement that continues forever."

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (NCV)