

Kingdom Hope

Our English Bibles are full of references to ‘hope’. But what does ‘hope’ really mean? Or, more importantly, what did it mean to the writers of the NT documents in the 1st century AD?

The Greek word used is *elpis* (ἐλπίς) meaning: to ‘anticipate’, usually with pleasure; or ‘confidence’ as in faith or hope. Abstractly or concretely it means ‘expectation’.¹ This manifests as either: (1) The expectation of evil in the form of fear; or (2) The expectation of good in the form of hope.

‘Hope’ is used in the NT 54 times, such as in these verses:

Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV) – *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV) – *[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

2 Corinthians 3:11-12 (NKJV) – *For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—*

Philippians 1:20 (NKJV) – *according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.*

Colossians 1:4-5 (NKJV) – *since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,*

Colossians 1:23 (NKJV) – *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV) – *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NKJV) – *But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.*

Notice that the word has built into its 1st century use the idea of **confident expectation**. This is the reason why the Greek word has long been translated in English as ‘hope’ because archaically it meant ‘a feeling of trust’².

This is in total opposition to the modern use of the word where it has the idea of ‘maybe’ or ‘this is what we would like, if it does happen’. The Urban Dictionary states the modern understanding of ‘hope’ to be: As a verb: “Dreaming or wishing for something special to happen”; as a noun: “Your special dreams or wishes”³.

This positive aspect of ‘hope’ in the NT is why the verses containing ‘hope’ are translated in a positive way in more modern English Bibles.

1 – www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G1680/elpis.htm

2 – www.lexico.com/en/definition/hope

3 – www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Hope

1 Corinthians 13:7 (TPT⁴) – *Love is a safe place of shelter, for it never stops believing the best for others. Love never takes failure as defeat, for it never gives up.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (TPT) – *For what will be our confident hope, our exhilarating joy, or our wonderful trophy that we will boast in before our Lord Jesus at his appearing? It is you!*

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (TPT) – *Now may the Lord Jesus Christ and our Father God, who loved us and in his wonderful grace gave us eternal comfort and a beautiful hope that cannot fail,*

Titus 1:2(AMP⁵) – *based on the hope and divine guarantee of eternal life, [the life] which God, who is ever truthful and without deceit, promised before the ages of time began,*

Hebrews 6:19 (AMP) – *This hope [this confident assurance] we have as an anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whatever pressure bears upon it]—a safe and steadfast hope that enters within the veil [of the heavenly temple, that most Holy Place in which the very presence of God dwells],*



In the Kingdom we are to operate with the same positive assurance that Heaven operates under. There is to be no wishy-washy hope in our lifestyle. We partner with Heaven in our assignments and that requires the absence of any faltering, unbelief, double-mindedness, etc. Once the Trinity has spoken to us, we believe it wholeheartedly and step out in solid faith to make it happen. There is no wishing in the Kingdom, only confident expectation.

NOTE: We must ignore any Bible translations of verses that seem to indicate that hope is a form of wishful thinking, rather than having a solid foundation for action. This will help our reprogramming into having a complete Kingdom mindset.

IMPORTANT: It's time to clean up our speech. The word 'hope' as we use it today should be totally removed from our vocabulary. The word 'wish' should also be removed. Don't forget to eliminate 'wish' from birthday cake ceremonies – it's inconsistent with our Kingdom citizenship to teach children to 'wish'. And don't forget Santa Clause's gift wishes either.

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