

"Hope is oxygen to the soul."

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"There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something tomorrow."
—Orison Swett Marden

"Lord save us all from old age and broken

"Lord save us all from old age and broken health and a hope tree that has lost the faculty of putting out blossoms." —Mark Twain

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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According to His great mercy,
He has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead, 4to an inheritance that is
imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven for you, 5who by
God's power are being guarded
through faith for a salvation ready
to be revealed in the last time.

6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls... ¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being soberminded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

l⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, l⁵but as

He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, l⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

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¹⁷And if you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

—I Peter 1:1-9, 13-17 ESV

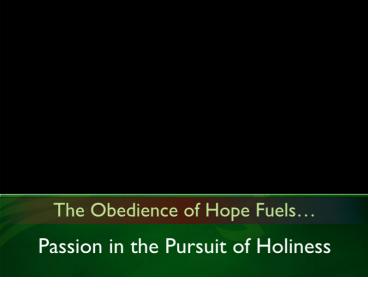
The Obedience of Hope = "A future hope produces present focus and resolve"

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"If we have any genuine Christian hope, it will have its effect in helping us, as children of obedience, to do and to accept all our Father's will... Just as strong hope will produce obedience, so true obedience will nourish and strengthen hope.

A little sin will go much further towards obscuring and shatter a Christian man's hope than a great sorrow will... No Christian man's hope will last through sin. Therefore obedience and hope must co-exist and feed on another." —Alexander Maclaren

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"Holiness is not a series of do's and don'ts, but conformity to the character of God and obedience to the will of God."

—Jerry Bridges

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"We can say just as accurately that the pursuit of holiness is a joint venture between God and the Christian. No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely, no one will attain it without effort on his own part.

God has made it possible for us to walk in holiness. But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking;
He does not do that for us."

—Jerry Bridges

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The Obedience of Hope Empowers...

Persistence in the Face of Opposition

6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.—I Peter 1:6-7 ESV

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¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

—I Peter 3:14-17 ESV

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Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

—I Peter 4:19 ESV

"The holiness described in the Bible calls us to do more than separate ourselves from the moral pollution of the world around us. It calls us to obey God even when that obedience is costly, when it requires deliberate sacrifice and even exposure to danger." —Jerry Bridges

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The Obedience of Hope Embraces...

Purpose in the Place of Pain

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, ⁷casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

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⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. —I Peter 5:6-10 ESV

The Obedience of Hope Envisions...

Glory in the Light of Eternity

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⁸Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

—I Peter 1:8-9 ESV

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."
—Corrie ten Boom

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"If God can bring blessing from the broken body of Jesus and glory from something as obscene as the cross, He can bring blessing from my problems and my pain and my unanswered prayer. I just have to trust Him." —Anne Graham Lotz