



## *The Things I Need Most in My Life*

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-.001.tiff

“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 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.

-.003.tiff

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>according 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. <sup>3</sup>Blessed 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, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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.

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<sup>8</sup>Though 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, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls... <sup>13</sup>Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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<sup>14</sup>As **obedient** children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

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<sup>17</sup>And 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.

—1 Peter 1:1-9, 13-17 ESV

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

-.010.tiff

"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.

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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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The Obedience of Hope Fuels...

Passion in the Pursuit of Holiness

-.013.tiff

“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.

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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

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<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so 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. —1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

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<sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but 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,

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<sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For 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

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“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

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

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<sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And 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

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The Obedience of Hope Envisions...

Glory in the Light of Eternity

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<sup>8</sup>Though 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, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

—I Peter 1:8-9 ESV

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“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

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