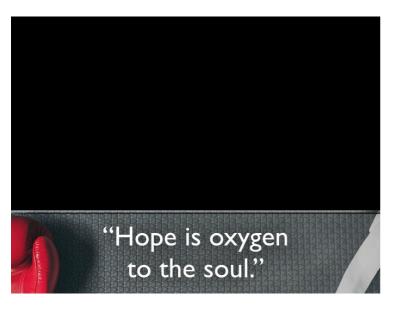
But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

—I Thessalonians 5:8-11 ESV



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How do we build houses of hope?

Cultivate Kindness

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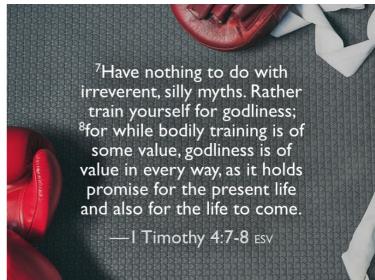
12Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful... ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

—Colossians 3:12-15, 17 ESV

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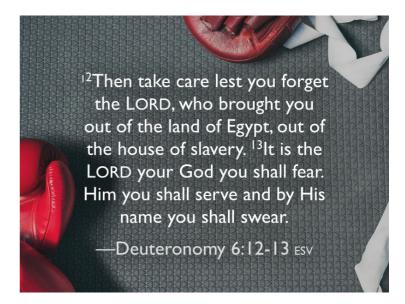
⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, ⁹for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck... ¹¹My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of His reproof, ¹²for the LORD reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

—Proverbs 1:7-9; 3:11-12 ESV

"You must bear the burden of responsibility that your children be loved, but you dare not bear the burden of guaranteeing that they feel loved. In that case you would replace God's objective command with their subjective response, and make a human the arbiter of obligation." —John Piper

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6And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. —Deuteronomy 6:6-9 ESV



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²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil... ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. —Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32 ESV

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¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm...

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3



Darkness comes. In the middle of it, the future looks blank. The temptation to quit is huge. Don't. You are in good company... You will argue with yourself that there is no way forward. But with God, nothing is impossible. He has more ropes and ladders and tunnels out of pits than you can conceive. Wait. Pray without ceasing. Hope. —John Piper

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