



# Hope in Christ

Psalm 42    1 Peter 1:3-5    John 14:1-6

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The **death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ** is the *central teaching* of the Holy Christian Church; it is the *most important thing* in the Kingdom of God, and it is the *Gospel Good News* that brings *forgiveness of sins* and *eternal life* to every one of us!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the **foundation of our faith**, and the basis of our **hope**. Hope is confident faith; hope is the deep conviction<sup>1</sup> that God will keep His promises to you of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting.

In the Bible, hope is described as an **anchor**.

We have **hope** as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.    Hebrews 6:19

An anchor, of course, keeps a ship from drifting away by tethering it to the sea bottom. **Hope tethers you to the promises of God so that you don't "drift away" from the Lord, His Word, or His Church.**

Hope is described as **firm and secure** like an anchor; hope is firm and secure because it tethers you to the greatest promise and miracle of all time: the **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.

St. Peter makes the connection for us:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a **LIVING HOPE** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead    1 Peter 1:3

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<sup>1</sup> In Scripture, hope is sure and certain because it's based on God's promises, and the fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Be sure **not** to use the English idea of "hope," that is, with the idea of "maybe/maybe not", as in, "I hope the Diamondbacks win the baseball game today."

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead is the basis of your Hope in God. The Resurrection gives you the confidence that God will keep all of His Promises. The line of thought goes like this: ***If God can keep His promise to raise Jesus from the dead, then He has the power to keep all of His other promises to you as well, especially that you too will rise from the dead.*** Your hope is anchored to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! *No wonder it is firm and secure!*

Hope is spoken of in two key ways in Scripture. The first is that we have **hope in God's promises now** as we live our lives; and the second is that we have **hope in God's promises later**, after we die.

As we live our lives now, we trust that God will keep all of His promises to us. Whatever is going on in your life, God's promises apply to you! **Your circumstances cannot change God's Promises!**

Whatever is going on in your life, the Risen Lord Jesus Christ is there with you with His power and might. You are never alone, you are never abandoned, and your life never drifts aimlessly and without purpose. The Lord Jesus promises to help you, to strengthen you, and to assure you of His love, presence and power in your life! Hope tethers you to Christ, His Word, and His Promises!

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. Psalm 42:5-6

Hope is the firm conviction that God will keep all of His promises to you!

**The opposite of hope is DOUBT.** Satan would love to create doubt within you.

- † Doubt means that you are *uncertain* about God's Promises.
- † It means that you are *hesitant* to trust God's Word.
- † It means that you *waver* in faith.
- † It means that you *fail to apply* God's promises to yourself.
  - ➔ Doubt is a life *without an anchor*.
  - ➔ Doubt is a life *full of fear and uncertainty*
  - ➔ Doubt is a soul that *drifts aimlessly* and is *battered and tossed* by all the worry and pain of life
  - ➔ Doubt will always *lead you away* from Christ and His Promises!

If you have ever struggled with doubt, then you know how empty, lonely, and dangerous it can be. **Treat your doubt like sin.** If you have doubts about Christ, His resurrection, or His Promises, then repent! Turn away from your doubts. Confess them to God. Know and believe that you are forgiven! Don't invest one ounce of energy into any word, thought or idea that leads you away from Christ and His Promises. **Treat your doubt like sin<sup>2</sup>.**

The resurrection of Christ gives you the strength to turn away from doubt; and to put your hope in the Lord! Spend your time in God's Word! Learn the Promises! Study the Bible! Trust the Scriptures!

## **STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE.**

Believe that the One who has risen from the dead speaks the truth to you. Believe that you can trust God's Word and Promises for your life! Spend your time in God's Word learning His Promises – and *not one ounce of energy* entertaining doubt.

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

*Put your hope in God,*

for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 42:5-6

The truth is that God will keep all of His promises to you! The Lord Jesus promises to help you, to strengthen you, to assure you of His love, presence and power in your life! Hope tethers you to Christ, His Word, and His Promises as you live your life each day.

Not only has the Risen Savior given you promises *in this life*; but He has also given you promises **after you die.**

## **We believe in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting!**

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<sup>2</sup> When you repent of doubt, you turn away from it, and turn towards God and His Word. Go back to the basics. Read one of the gospels, perhaps the Gospel of Luke. Go back to the Small Catechism, and remember the building blocks of the Christian faith: the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Don't listen to your doubt, listen to God's Holy Word. If you need a Bible, or a Small Catechism, I will give you one for free!

We have the hope of *eternal life*! We trust Jesus when He promised us a home in heaven. We trust God when He tells us that there is life after death. We trust that God is telling us the truth: that's hope! Here are some of the promises that give us HOPE in everlasting life:

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has *eternal life* and will not be condemned; he has *crossed over from death to life.*" John 5:24

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me *will live*, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will *never die.*" John 11:25

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and *take you to be with me* that you also may be where I am. John 14:1-3

Christ Jesus has *destroyed death* and has brought *life and immortality to light* through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:10

As you hear and read these promises, God the Holy Spirit creates faith and strengthens HOPE within you. You believe these words, you know that they apply to you. You know that they will come true because *Jesus has risen from the dead*! Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so too, you will rise from the dead on the Last Day.

At the moment of death, your soul is with Christ in heaven, awaiting the resurrection of the dead on the Last Day. On that Last Day, Christ will raise your body from the dead and glorify it and you will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in both body and soul! This is our hope! Because Jesus lives, you too will live! The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope!

## **We believe in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection of the Dead and the Life Everlasting!**

**Hope is living each day with confident faith in God and His Promises.** Hope is a deep conviction, confidence and assurance in God's promises **both now in this life**, and **later when you die**. Hope is an **anchor** for your soul; Hope keeps you tethered to Christ and His Word; Hope is **firm and secure** because it is based on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

AMEN!

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**Living Lord Jesus Christ,**  
you give us hope, conviction, and assurance  
through the promises of your Holy Word.

**Send us your Holy Spirit, so that we may  
learn and trust your Promises;**  
and in doing so, we may combat doubt, fear  
and worry in our lives.

**Help us to live in Hope now;**  
and someday, to die in hope.

**Open our ears to your Word**  
and give us rock solid hope and confidence  
in your promises.

**Amen!**

## Psalm 42

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. **2** My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? **3** My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" **4** These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng. **5** Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and **6** my God. My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon--from Mount Mizar. **7** Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. **8** By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me-- a prayer to the God of my life. **9** I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?" **10** My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?" **11** Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

## **1 Peter 1:3-5**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

## **John 14:1-6**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. **2** In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going." **5** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" **6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.