

Holy & Pleasing to God

Let's begin the year with hope we place in the Lord. It's easy to put hope in the new year but our future rests in Jesus alone. What are you trusting God for this year? Habakkuk 2:2-3 - Then the Lord answered me and said "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

Let's pray and hear God for 2023 and write it down.

Week 1

Talking to God

Ask God to help you see the joy and hope in your life.

Going Deeper

God's hope for us can be personal, meant especially for you. David expressed God's joy, and he praised God for it, saying, "12 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!" Psalm 97:12.

God's hope may also affect many people in a particular way. God shows His hope through the ongoing courage of David described in 1 Samuel 17:45: "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts."

God's joy and hope are part of His nature. It's easy to overlook His everyday expressions but as you intentionally look for them, you become more aware of God's love.

Talking to Each Other

Talk about a hope you have

Why is it important to recognize His joy

Week 2

Talking to God

Tell the Lord the things that bring you hope.

Going Deeper

When we express ourselves to God it reminds us that we have a 2 way relationship with Him. He is not just telling us what to do or where to go. He wants to, like He did with Adam, walk with us in life. That means we get to discuss with the Lord the things that make us hopeful. Walk with the Lord this week and speak to Him like the father and friend He is.

A Prayer for Hope: Lord, I maintain my hope in You and I hold onto the assurance that what I am praying for is already accomplished in the name of Jesus. Your Word promises “no good thing does He withhold from those that walk uprightly” (Psalm 84:11). I wait upon You for Your definition of the “good thing” You will not withhold from me.

Week 3

Talking to God

What are the things God has said that you are wrestling to believe? Tell Him what they are and why you struggle.

Going Deeper

I love the way each of the psalmists wrestle and fight and struggle to maintain their hope in God. This is a normal experience we all live in from time to time. We have to own up to it, or else we may grow sluggish and negligent in our fight for hope. And can be very dangerous as the enemy is constantly trying to convince us that Jesus doesn't care.

Talking to Each Other

- Talk about a hope you have
- Why is it important to recognize His joy

Week 4

Talking to God

Silently confess the times you have doubted God. Ask Him for forgiveness, then thank Him for having hope in you.

Going Deeper

When we doubt God, we open ourselves up to the opinions and criticism of others. We don't have enough space in our hearts and minds for all of the voices that contradict the voice of God.

Keep your attention strictly on the hopeful words that God leads you with. That doesn't mean we live in "la la land" but in a place that is filled with the power of God's word in our lives.

Take Action

Call/Text someone from our church family and tell them something you have struggled believing and are ready to put your faith behind.