

Hope vs Hopelessness

Over the past few weeks, time and time again, I have heard the word “hopeless” used to describe many situations. People have become hopeless on many levels. It especially saddens my heart when a young person says that they feel hopeless.

In my seemingly never-ending quest for scriptural guidance, I decided to see what the bible had to say about “hopelessness”. So, I went to one of my favorite tools, biblegateway.com and did a word search in the King James Bible* for just that word, hopeless. It turned up 0 (zero) matches. Then I put the word “hope” in and searched. I got 133 results. Hmmmm...what does that tell you?

The first scripture to use the word “hope” is in the book of Ruth. Within Ruth 1:11-13 to be exact.

And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me.

Let me put this into context. Naomi, her husband and 2 sons set off to Moab from Bethlehem in Judah. While there, both sons married. In this foreign country, Naomi’s husband and both of her sons died. She was left with her two daughters-in-law. As women without husbands, they would have been “hopeless”. Widows in that time were pretty much nothing without a man. Naomi thus travels back to Bethlehem with her “daughters” from another region.. Naomi is telling her two daughters-in law, Ruth and Orpah to go back to their own homes and find a new husband. In her own way, Naomi is telling them that there is no hope (hopeless) for her to have another son and if she did, what were they going to do? Wait around until they were old enough to be their husbands? No, she wanted them to go where they would have hope to find another to marry. Ruth, however, refuses to go and stays with Naomi. As you continue reading in Ruth, the Lord has not forgotten them, and they are blessed by what happens in Bethlehem. ([Read all of Ruth here to see what happened!](#))

Naomi had felt that the Lord “is gone out against me”. She felt hopeless. As things play out she finds that, through Ruth, she is blessed and, in the end, has much to praise the Lord for.

This is only the first appearance of the word “hope” and, in this case, it actually equates to “hopeless”.

Now, take a look at your life. Have there been times when you felt hopeless and then you are blessed in a way that you never thought? In my life, it has happened often. Because even if we have given up hope, God has not.



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Unfortunately, there are too many people out there who do not know the love of God. They don't know the simple truth of salvation. It is up to us to share our stories with them. You don't have to "get in their face" with scriptures and sermons, all you need to do is to tell them how you felt hopeless and how that was turned into hope. Then tell them that all of your hope comes from God. It's a way to "back" into a conversation that ends with God as the superhero.

Stay tuned. As I said last time, learning is something we should never stop doing. Over the next few weeks I will be researching and learning more so that I can share with you the hope that I have in our Lord and salvation through Jesus.

My prayer is for you to stay hopeful in all you see, say and do.

Cindy Lee Nonnemacher
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*You may wonder why I use the King James Version in my articles and other writing. First, it is what I grew up with. Second, the KJV is in public domain. Many of the other bible version are copyrighted. To avoid any infringement issues, I use the KJV. If you go to BibleGateway.com, you can read scripture in one of 50+ versions. Or, look up the scriptures in the bible that you have in your home. In either case, take the time to read the book of Ruth. It is truly a case of hopelessness turning around.