

Where is hope found?

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15

Insecurity makes us betray what we believe, and live in despair.

(Saul) "I sinned . . . I was afraid of the people so I gave in to them."

1 Samuel 15:24

". . . many believed in Jesus. But they would not admit it for fear of the Pharisees. . . . They were more concerned to have the approval of men than the approval of God."

John 12:42-43

Hope is found when our relationship with our Heavenly Father forms our primary identity

We find our 4 key sources of Hope in our relationship with God.

**Identity
Acceptance
Significance &
Security**

- I am not who I think I am
- I am not who YOU think I am
- But I really am who GOD says I am!

"Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure."

Ephesians 1:4-6

My primary identity needs to be formed by being a "child of God".

You are the one the Father loves...

"For this is how I know the Father loves _____: He gave his one and only Son, so that when _____ believes in him they will not perish but have eternal life. The Father sent his Son into the world not to judge _____, but to save _____ through him. John 3:16-17

¹⁵ "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "**Abba, Father.**" ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself.

³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:15-39