

Hope:

A confident expectation of a positive future.



Faith, hope, and love are considered the three primary elements of Christian character. Paul summed up the “Love Chapter” (1 Corinthians 13) with these three aspects of the Christian life. Hope, as one of these three elements, is extremely important to our walk as Christians - and to our marriage. When one or both spouses have no hope, the marriage *is* in crisis. The first thing anyone desiring to help troubled marriages must do is to give hope - hope that the couple *can* have a happy, flourishing marriage.

Our hope; that confident expectation of a positive future, must be in Christ Jesus, and only in Him. Too often our hope is put in the wrong place; in our spouse or our circumstances. Misplaced hope withers and can die when our spouse fails us or we encounter trouble in life. Hope gets us through the tough times, whether it is the troubles we inevitably will face in life or when we face troubles in our marriage. We can have hope because we know that we are children of the God of the Universe and He loves us with an everlasting love.

That hope must translate into action. We don’t sit and wait for circumstances to change or the problems to go away. We face the problems and deal with them. We use relationship tools or seek help to get our marriage back on track. We address the problems in healthy ways and seek to resolve them whether those problems are in our marriage, with others, or circumstances beyond our control. Hope means that we don’t dwell on the past or the circumstances we face, but we focus on the Lord our God and the power He provides to persevere through the storms we face.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

The *Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook* is a great tool to help couples connect and work together to meet the challenges of life.

Articles to check out: *There is Always Hope* by Jimmy Evans -

marriagetoday.com/marriagehelp/there-is-always-hope

9 Ways to Keep from Losing Hope

www.redeemingmarriages.com/9-ways-to-keep-from-losing-hope