

Hope

by Bill Crews

1. **There is but one.** *"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4).*
2. **It concerns eternal life.** *"In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal" (Titus 1:2).*
3. **It was planned by God before the world began.** *"Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God; who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal" (2 Timothy 1:8-9). "Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish before him in love" (Ephesians 1:4).*
 - a. **Through Christ.** *"Which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal" (2 Timothy 1:9).*
 - b. **By the suffering and death of Christ.** *"Though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (Hebrews 5:8-9).*
4. **It was and is brought to light through or revealed in the gospel.** *"But hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). "Because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (Colossians 1:5).*
5. **It is in heaven.** See Colossians 1:5 above. *"Unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).*
6. **It is promised, or it is a future possession, held now in promise and prospect.** *"And this is the promise which he promised us, even the life eternal" (1 John 2:25). "For in hope were we saved; but hope that is seen is not hope: for who hopeth for that which he seeth? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:24-25).*
7. **It is an inheritance for God's faithful children.** *"Unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). "That, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:7).*
8. **It is to be earnestly looked for.** *"Looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). Compare 2 Peter 3:12-13.*
9. **It is a helmet in battle.** *"But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation" (1 Thessalonians 5:8).*
10. **It is an anchor to the soul.** *"Which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and stedfast and entering into that which is within the veil" (Heb. 6:19).*
11. **It helps the Christian endure sufferings and hardships and press on in faithfulness.** *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to usward" (Romans 8:18).*
12. All of a Christian's suffering and persecution is but *"light affliction"* when compared to that *"eternal weight of glory."* *"For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).*

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