

**Finding Hope In Hard Times**  
**“Hope For What Seems Hopeless”**

(Part 6)

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**I. Hopeless Situations Are \_\_\_\_\_**

*Acts 14:22 “They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.” (NLT)*

A. Hopeless situations allow us to see God more clearly

*Ps. 18:6 “But in my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from His sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears.” (NLT)*

B. Hopeless situations strengthen our \_\_\_\_\_ and clarify our convictions

*I Peter 1:6-7 “So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (NLT)*

*Job. 13:15 “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him...” (NIV)*

**II. Hopeless Situations Remind Us Of Our \_\_\_\_\_**

*Col. 1:5 Talks about our ultimate hope “...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven...” (NASB)*

A. Hopeless situations get our focus off of this life

*I John 2:15-17 “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, ...For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. **And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave.** But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” (NLT)*

B. Hopeless situations get our focus on \_\_\_\_\_

*Rom. 8:24-25 “For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” (NIV)*

**III. Hopeless Situations Can Still \_\_\_\_\_**

*Rom. 8:28 “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (NLT)*

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A. God is always looking for opportunities in hopeless situations

*John 9:2-3 “Rabbi,” his disciples asked him, “Why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins? It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.” (NLT)*

B. Our response in hopeless situations determines the \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Some Hopeless Situations In This Life God \_\_\_\_\_**

*Jer. 15:18 “Why then does my suffering continue? Why is my wound so incurable? Your help seems as uncertain as a seasonal brook, like a spring that has gone dry.” (NLT)*

A. When God doesn’t change the situation, He increases His \_\_\_\_\_  
Sometimes God says “No”.

*II Cor. 12:7-9 “Even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.” (NLT)*

*Ps. 34:18 “The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.” (NLT)*

B. When God doesn’t change the situation, He will \_\_\_\_\_

*Phil. 1:6 “And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” (NLT)*

4 responses God is looking for when life seems hopeless

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*Rom. 15:13 “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” (NLT)*