

The Role of Hope in Leadership

Christians are the people of hope. Our message, the gospel, is the message of hope. The first Christian leaders (Peter, Paul, other apostles) had spread this message throughout their world and we, European Christian leaders in the 21st century, are responsible for getting it to our nations. We all desperately need hope, future hope that makes a huge practical difference in the quality of the life we live today.

But what if our own hopes, dreams, and plans get shattered? What if our visions fail to become reality and/or personal tragedy creeps in uninvited? Let us learn together from the apostle Peter and others about “living hope” we share together with them. What is it? What is the basis of it? How does it function, and how do we gain it and keep it active as we serve Christ by leading others?

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I. Christian Hope

A. Importance of Hope in Human Life and Society

1. Our Present Being Is Fully Connected With Our Hope For the Future
2. Our Culture Is Fueled By Hope

B. What is Christian Hope (Living Hope, 1Peter 1:3-9)

1. Definition (Rom 8:24-25)
 - a. Desire
 - b. Expectation
 - c. Certainty
2. Uniqueness of Living Hope
 - a. Personal
 - b. Independent on Circumstances
 - c. Guaranteed
 - d. Amazingly Beautiful

C. Bases of the Living Hope

1. Resurrection of Christ
2. God's Promises

D. How To Gain the Living Hope

1. It is a Gift Attached to Salvation
2. Believing the Gospel

E. How Is Living Hope Working

1. Real Joy
2. Real Grief
3. Resulting in Final Praise, Glory and Honor

II. Hope and Christian Leadership

A. Leaders Are Messengers of Hope

1. Consequences of Not Fulfilling This Role

B. Leaders Have Hopes and Dreams

1. Personal
2. Ministry

C. Learning From Other Godly Leaders

1. Peter – How To Activate the Living Hope
2. Paul
3. Moses

D. Personal Testimony

E. Practical Suggestions

1. Make a Clear Decision
 - a. To Continue
 - b. To Leave It
 - c. Act on It: Hope does not make a bad idea better. But hope can make a great idea possible
2. Anchor Yourself To a Vision Far Bigger Than Problems and You
 - a. Do not Try Be Become Great – It will Result In Disaster
 - b. It Is Not Your Battle, Mission, Gospel – It's God's
3. Focus On Why, Not What and How
 - a. What Happens If the Focus Is On What or How
 - b. How Often To Focus On Why
4. Choose Your Team Carefully
 - a. People of Hope
 - b. People Who Believe the Same Vision
 - c. Wise and Faithful
5. Invest Personally In the Vision
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Time
 - c. Heart
 - d. Personal Resources (Nehemiah)

III. Discussion

Suggested Readings:

John White: Excellence In Leadership

Max Lucado: For the Tough Times: Reaching Toward Heaven For Hope

Timothy Keller: Sermons and lectures on hope

Word study of hope in the New Testament