

Season of Hope - The Power of the Scriptures

Dr. John Carmichael

[Rom 15:4 NASB95] 4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

- Division, confusion, and scandal have caused many to lose many things. One of those things lost is hope. We through distrust, disappointment, and doubt have lost an expectation of anything. Many are just in neutral; numb to many things, including Jesus and His Church.
- Paul addresses this situation here in Romans. His fix is to draw those who are experiencing these issues to the Scriptures.
- The Scriptures are under attack. Existence. Influence. Dilution.
- Christmas inspires us to hope (expectation of the fulfillment of God's plan universally and individually.) The Scriptures help to develop that hope.

In what ways do the Scriptures have the power to produce hope in our lives?

Here are four points from Romans 15:4 that help us tap into the power of the Scriptures.

I. The Scriptures Were Written for Our Learning

- a. "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction..."
 - i. The Bible is not just a collection of stories; it is a teaching tool designed to shape our understanding of God, His will, and our purpose.
- b. [2Ti 3:16-17 NASB95] 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - i. The Scriptures provide us with guidance in every area of life, equipping us to navigate challenges and grow in righteousness.
- c. [Psa 119:105 NASB95] 105 Nun. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
 - i. The Word lights our way, teaching us how to walk in alignment with God's will.
- d. Commit to daily Bible reading and study. Let the Word shape your decisions and understanding.

II. The Scriptures Teach Perseverance

- a. "... so that through perseverance..."
- b. Perseverance is patiently keeping on. The Word of God instills patience by teaching us to trust God's timing and remain steadfast in trials.
- c. [Jas 1:3-4 NASB95] 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have [its] perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
 - i. Through Scripture, we see how God uses trials to produce patience and maturity in us.
- d. [Isa 40:31 NASB95] 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up [with] wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.
 - i. The Word reassures us of the blessings that come to those who wait on the Lord.
- e. Reflect on Biblical stories of those who waited on God (e.g., Abraham, Joseph) and find encouragement to persevere.

III. The Scriptures Provide Encouragement

- a. "... the encouragement of the Scriptures..."
- b. God's Word is a source of encouragement in times of distress, offering reassurance of His presence and promises.

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- c. [Psa 23:4 NASB95] 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
 - i. The Scriptures remind us that God's presence brings peace even in the darkest times.
- d. [Jhn 14:1 NASB95] 1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
 - i. Jesus speaks comfort to us through His promises of eternal care and provision.
- e. In times of distress turn to the Scriptures to find encouragement.

IV. The Scriptures Lead to Hope

- a. "... we might have hope."
 - b. The ultimate purpose of Scripture is to instill hope—a confident expectation of God's faithfulness and promises.
 - c. [Jer 29:11 NASB95] 11 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'
 - i. God's plans for us, revealed in His Word, give us a future filled with hope.
 - d. [Heb 6:18-19 NASB95] 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a [hope] both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,
 - i. The Word anchors us in hope, no matter the storms of life.
 - e. Make the Scripture your source of hope.
- **God wants you to give the Scriptures existence (place), influence, singular focus so you can maintain hope through learning, developing patience, and receiving encouragement in any environment or season of life.**