

In Troubling Times, How Do We Have Hope?



This hope we have as
an anchor of the soul...
Hebrews 6:19

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The times in which we live are certainly troubling.
Issues abound, including:

- Critical Race Theory and Cultural Marxism
- Gender confusion and homosexuality
- Right to Life vs Abortion
- Apostasy in the Church
- Election Fraud & liberal, anti-Christian politics
- Everything COVID
- Government overreach and control
- Media manipulation and discrimination
- The tragedy & travesty of Afghanistan withdrawal
and more troubles arising every day.

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With all the trials and tribulations of our world,
our country, our society, and our culture...

*What are we to do so
we do not lose heart
and become weary?*

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The answers to that question are found throughout the Bible — in the lives, faith, works of many — but one of the greatest examples to instruct and encourage us is King David.

David Encouraged Himself in the LORD his God
(1 Sam 30:6)

In Troubling Times, How Do We Encourage Ourselves in the Lord?



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In 1 Samuel 30:1-5, we read that the Amalakites had taken Ziklag and burned it. They took captive the wives, sons, and daughters of the Israelites, including David's two wives (Ahinoam and Abigail). Then in verse six, we read:

1 Sam 30:6 And **David was greatly distressed**; for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters:
but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

“but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.”

David's faith supplied him with inward resources of comfort and gave him the strength he needed.

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How Did David Encourage Himself?

1. David **turned** to God and found **rest** in the Lord

The world can, and does, lie and mislead us. Only God has the true answers and the power to direct us. David sought the Lord.

1 Sam 30:7 ...bring me the ephod here to me...

2. David **trusted** God and **waited** on the Lord

Turning to God isn't enough. We must also trust God and wait on Him. It starts with believing what we know about God and trusting that His words are true and He is faithful to do as He says.

1 Sam 30:8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

3. David **acted** in the **strength** of the Lord

Distress and despair can cause one to do nothing. Encouragement fuels hope and hope fuels action. David moved forward according to God's will.

1 Sam 30:9, 17-18 So David went...And David smote them...And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

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How do we encourage ourselves in the Lord?

We seek the Lord, just as David did, by...

1. turning to and resting in the Lord,
2. trusting in and waiting on the Lord,
3. acting by the strength of the Lord.

So what does it mean to

- 1) rest in the Lord,
- 2) wait on the Lord, and
- 3) be strengthened by Him?

1. Finding Rest in the Lord

Ps 37:7 **Rest** in the LORD, and **wait** patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

How do we not fret when the wicked prosper? By remembering.

We remember the truths about God. He is a good Father who loves His children. He has made promises to us and He is faithful to fulfill them. Ps 20:7, 42:6, 145:17

We remember God is sovereign over all things, including the wicked. Ps 115:3

We remember that God is just. He will, in His time, judge all injustice. Ps 75:7

We remember that all wickedness/sin will be paid for. Ps 145:20

Jesus paid for our sin. In that we find rest. **Matt 11:29**

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2. Waiting on the Lord

Ps 62:1 Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.

How do we wait patiently and silently? By knowing.

We know that God is in control and has promised to work in His way and in His time. We can trust Him. Ps 18:30

We know that God is faithful to keep His promises. We can have confidence in Him. Ps 111:7, 119:138

We know that God acts according to His purpose and plan and so we have hope in His will and His ways. Ps 25:4, 119:15, 128:1

Wait on the Lord. Hab 1:2, 2:3, 3:17-18

3. Strength in the Lord

Ps 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Ps 29:11 The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

God promises to give strength and peace. Why don't we always have it?

God allows trials, tribulation, and affliction into our live. But in all things, He has purpose. He knows what we face and He gives grace to meet our needs. The grace He gives transforms us and enables us to live in His strength. Ps 28:7-8, 118:14

God will deliver us: 2 Sam 22:1,33 And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: {33}God is my strength and power: And he makes my way perfect.

We need to see all afflictions as opportunities to grow in the strength and peace of God. We should respond with joyful willingness, fueled by a heart captured by God's glory, goodness, and grace — a heart devoted to loving and serving Him. Hab 3:19

Our hope is in the Lord. Ps 31:24

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast

Heb 6:19



Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Waiting on God doesn't mean sitting around and hoping God will strengthen us.
Waiting requires a passage of time. It requires patience. And the Lord will give us that too.

Col 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and
longsuffering with joyfulness;

James 1:3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith works patience.

Waiting on the Lord includes believing --believing God will do as He's promised.
Waiting requires active living, based on confidence in God's presence and promises, and with an
expectation that He will direct one's path and meet one's needs.

Our rest, our strength, our hope is in the Lord. We can trust Him in all things and wait on Him to work,
according to His purpose and plan and knowing He works all things together for His glory and our good.

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Hab 1:2 O LORD, **how long** shall I cry, and You wilt not hear! *Even* cry out to you, "Violence!" And You will not save.

Hab 2:1-3 I will stand my watch ...And watch to see what He will say to me... {2} Then the LORD answered... "Write the vision...{3} For the vision *is* **yet for an appointed time**; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, **wait** for it; Because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

Hab 3:17-18 Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit *be* on the vines; Though the labour of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and *there be* no herd in the stalls: **Yet** I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Hab 3:19 The LORD God *is* my **strength**; He will make my feet like deer's *feet*, And He will make me walk on my high hills.

2 Cor 12:9 He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Heb 13:5-6 ...for He has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. {6} So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

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- ▶ Hab 2:4 ... the just shall live by his faith.
- ▶ Rom 1:17 ...The just shall live by faith.
- ▶ Gal 3:11 ...The just shall live by faith.
- ▶ Heb 10:38 ...the just shall live by faith...



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