



burnsidefamilychurch.com  
88 Lockwood Road Burnside SA 5066

# HOPE & PRAYER SERIES



8, 15 & 22 JANUARY 2017

PURPOSE, PROCLAIM & PRACTICE

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. Romans 12:12

## Why focus on Hope and Prayer?

Romans chapter 12 provides a profound encouragement for the way we live our everyday life. This chapter will be our reference point for Hope and Prayer series. Romans 12 continues to encourage and challenge us by calling us into true worship, and being a living and holy sacrifice:

*And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Romans 12:1*

We are called to live our 'whole life' in the way of true worship unto God. Therefore the expression, and Christian disciplines of hope and prayer, should align with true worship – to be a living sacrifice to God. During the series, our hope and prayer at Burnside is that we will be encouraged in our answers to questions like these:

- Do our hopes and prayers align with a lifestyle that is a living and holy sacrifice?
- Are we confident in our hopes and are they set on Christ?
- Does our prayer life reflect the heart of Jesus?
- Do the hopes we have help us fulfil our calling to living sacrifice?
- What does the prayer life look like of those who are a living sacrifice for Jesus?
- Are we patient in moments of strife and trouble, keeping our hope?
- What are my hopes for 2017 and what has the Holy Spirit called me to pray for in 2017?

These questions are simple in face value, but can quickly become more complex in reality. These questions are great for discussions with one another and straight forward answers that are factual are useful. But our hope is that in fellowship with another, such discussion creates genuine personal connection that encourages Christian love and care for one another – as we begin to share our hope and prayers!

*Rejoice in our confident hope...and keep on praying. Romans 12:12*

In January, we will take the Hope and Prayer Jesus has for us, and remember its role in the Christian life. We will be encouraged in hopes past, and new hopes for the future. We will continue to pray for matters that trouble us, and pray for new burdens Jesus gives us. Through Hope and Prayer, together we will begin 2017 as a living sacrifices!

## How Hope and Prayer series will unfold

The series is held over 8, 15 & 22 January where we together will explore and discuss Hope and Prayer. The below shows a little of our journey:

### Purpose of this booklet

We want to encourage one another to pray, and reflect and note their hopes in the Lord for 2017. This booklet provides a place to assist us with reflecting and recording what the Lord says to us throughout the series.

### 8 January – Purpose of Hope and Prayer in our lives

Together, we will be encouraged in the role of hope and prayer in our lives.

### 15 January – Proclaiming our Hope, and a time of prayer

On 15 January, we will hear from each other about Hope at our Sharing Service. We are asking that you consider your hopes for 2017 to share. And that you might make some reflective notes about your hopes and bring something to share with one another during the Sharing Service. (Page 7)

### 15 January – Evening Service – Movie: War Room

‘War Room’ is a Christian film that reminds us of the importance of prayer, and how prayer is a necessary expression of our hope.

### 22 January – Practice of Hope and Prayer

Hope and Prayer go beyond ourselves and our church family, but into our community, work places, neighbours and schools. We are called to be a people who practice hope and prayer in our world!

### Hopeful anticipation

We are called to Hope and Prayer where it becomes part of our lifestyle and character. This series will signal that from the start of a new year, we are hopeful in prayer for Jesus to use us and be involved with His great commission – to share about Him with gracious and attractive speech, with whoever the Spirit brings across our path.

### Season of prayer

In February and March, we will enter a season of prayer with additional opportunities for us to come together to prayer.

### February and March evening services

Four Sunday evenings have been set aside for focused prayer and worship and devotion – reinforcing a season of prayer. We hope you can join us.

## Anticipation from Prayer and Hope in 2017

Jerry Root from Wheaton College says: *“Sometimes, the smallest act of human kindness produces the greatest effects, and opens doors for the gospel.”*

The God of the Universe knows you and loves you, and all of your sins and wrong doing. He forgives at His expense in Christ - This is truly good news full of hope and promise. It is only fitting that those who share this good news with others should exhibit acts of kindness while speaking words of grace.

Hospitality, and the utilising of personal resources, should characterise the life of a Christian. In Matthew 10:42 we read, “And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Sometimes, the smallest act of human kindness produces the greatest effects, and opens doors for the gospel. Giving a cup of cold water on a hot day may open a door to share the love of God with another person. It all started with a simple act of human kindness.

Beginning with a gift, an open heart or an open home can gain access to the heart of another. If the gospel is anything, it is hospitable; at least, it should be. Hebrews 13:2 says, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

It is fitting that true followers of Christ would be hospitable, for this is what Jesus was like. In Mark 2:1, the people of Capernaum heard that Jesus was at home. The bible doesn't record any worries about mud on the carpet or spills on the furniture. In fact, there were some men who desperately wanted to bring their paralytic friend to Jesus and went up onto the roof and began making a hole the roof.

Hospitality ought to be one of the threads woven into the fabric of all who are eager to serve Christ. In this case, it appears likely that Jesus modelled the behaviour that all following Him should practice.



## Romans 12 (NLT) // Practice of Hope

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. **REJOICE IN OUR CONFIDENT HOPE. BE PATIENT IN TROUBLE, AND KEEP ON PRAYING.** When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

# Biblical concepts of Hope and Prayer

The bible refers to hope and prayer often and in reflecting on the biblical concepts of hope and prayer, it helps to refer to and reflect on where these words are used in scripture:

## Hope

*...trustful anticipation, particularly with reference to the fulfilment of the promises of God.*

Romans 5:3-4 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 8:24-25 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Psalms 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

1 Peter 3:15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

## My Own 'Hope' Verses

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....













## Hope // Nelsons Bible Dictionary

Confident expectancy. In the Bible, the word hope stands for both the act of hoping (Rom 4:18; 1 Cor 9:10) and the thing hoped for (Col 1:5; 1 Peter 1:3). Hope does not arise from the individual's desires or wishes but from God, who is Himself the believer's hope: "My hope is in You" (Ps 39:7). Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are unseen and still in the future (Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1,7).

Hope distinguishes the Christian from others with no hope (Eph 2:12; 1 Thess 4:13). A Christian is one in whom hope resides (1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 3:3). In contrast to Old Testament hope, the Christian hope brought through Jesus is a better hope (Heb 7:19).

Christian hope comes from God (Rom 15:13) and especially His calling (Eph 1:18; 4:4), His grace (2 Thess 2:16), His Word (Rom 15:4) and His gospel (Col 1:23). Hope is directed toward God (Acts 24:15; 1 Peter 1:21) and Christ (1 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:1).

Attributes of hope include eternal life (Titus 1:2; 3:7), salvation (1 Thess 5:8), righteousness (Gal 5:5), the glory of God (Rom 5:2; Col 1:27), the appearing of Christ (Titus 2:13) and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 23:6; 26:6-7).

## Thought starters about Hope

I believe in the sun, even if it does not shine. I believe in love, even if I do not feel it. I believe in God, even if I do not see him.

An inscription on a wall of the Warsaw Ghetto by an unknown Jew, circa 1942....

There are none in the humanly "down" position so low that they cannot be lifted up by entering God's order, and none in the humanly "up" position so high that they can disregard God's point of view on their lives. ... The barren, the widow, the orphan, the eunuch, the alien, all models of human hopelessness, are fruitful and secure in God's care.

Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Let nothing disturb you, nothing dismay you; all things are passing: God never changes. Patient endurance attains all that it strives for; those who have God find they lack nothing. God alone suffices.

St. Teresa of Avila, from *The Pilgrim Prayerbook: New Edition*