



The Power of Hope

Bethany Belue

*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. — Romans 15:13*

I stood in my tiny New York City apartment, looking in the mirror with a tear-stained face. Just days before, the man I thought I would marry ended our relationship. My heart was crushed. Not only did it feel like the death of a person, but it also felt like a dream. Although I might not have verbalized it then, I had mapped out the life I thought was going to be mine, and this break-up felt like the path I was on was ripped out from under me. As I stared in the mirror, I asked myself, "God, what now?" I will never forget the Lord speaking tenderly to my heart and saying so clearly, "Bethany, put your hope in Me." Years later, these words of the Lord have been imprinted on my heart. At that moment, I felt hopeless. My hope was in what I thought my dreams would give me, and the Lord gently reminded me that my hope needed to be Him.

Romans 15:13 says, "May the God of hope fill you will all the joy and peace in believing, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope." When our hope is in the Lord, joy and peace follow. Our God is a God of hope and desperately wants us to live in that hope. Although it is so easy to put our hope in other things, what we know to be true from God's Word is that the only thing that will last is what is from Him. The Lord used that season of a broken heart to deepen my heart for Him. Although my story has continued to have many twists and turns, the Lord so kindly uses each one to point me back to Him and remind me that my life is secure in Him.

Ask the Lord where you are tempted to put your hope in something or someone other than Christ. May we be women who are willing to let go of that which is temporary for that which is eternal.

Let's Chat!

- Where are you tempted to put your hope? (ex: friendships, academics, marriage, children, job, finances, etc.)
- What do you think it means to "abound in hope"?
- What would it look like for you to let go of the places you are tempted to put your hope and for you to rest in the Lord's Hope?

Take-Away Truth

When our hope is in the Lord, we can trust our lives are secure.

Find more conversation starters: <https://women.pcacdm.org/made-for-more>

