

Intro: The difficulties of our day.
Disappointment > Doubt > Distrust > Despair

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

What are the sources of this hope?

1. The Foundation Of Our Hope Is The Truth Of The Resurrection.

1 Peter 1:3 (HCSB)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has *given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Mark 16:1-7 (HCSB)

¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so they could go and anoint Him.

² Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise.

³ They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?”

⁴ Looking up, they observed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; they were amazed and alarmed.

⁶ “Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been resurrected! He is not here! See the place where they put Him.

⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there just as He told you.’ ”

2. The Formation Of Our Hope Is A God-Given Process.

Romans 5:3-5 (HCSB)

³ And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance,

⁴ endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.

⁵ This hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Peter 1:7 (HCSB)

⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

3. The Faithfulness Of Our Hope Is Encouraged By The Flawless Word of God.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

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.

Psalm 18:30-32 (NIV)

³⁰ As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

³¹ For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God?

³² It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect.

(“flawless” = tried, tested and found pure)

4. The Freedom Of Our Hope Is Shared By All Creation.

Romans 8:20-22 (HCSB)

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope ²¹ that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children.

²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now.

5. The Faithfulness Of Our Hope Will Be Rewarded With The Redemption Of Our Bodies.

Romans 8:23-25 (HCSB)

²³ And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴ Now in this hope we were saved, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees?

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:37 (ESV)

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Invitation: Easter Is An Invitation To Be Full And Overflowing . . .

Romans 15:13 (ESV)

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.