



## HOPE IN THE LORD

**SCRIPTURAL LESSON:** *Jeremiah 17:5-10*

**GOSPEL TRUTH:**

Our hope rests in the Lord Jesus Christ. Only He has the complete power to bring everything to its rightful place where God can perfect us (*Psalms 138:8; Matthew 28:19*). Our own efforts to make our lives right will fall short of the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Therefore, we need to be fully aware of Jesus' presence and allow Him to lead us as He is the Author and Finisher of our faith (*Hebrews 12:1-2*). Jesus brought hope into this world by sacrificing His life for our sins on the cross (*John 3:15-17*). To complete the operation of salvation and hope, we need to accept Him as our Lord and Savior (*John 3:5; Acts 2:38*) and let Him rule within our heart.

**GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).*

**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:**

1. We should never forget the benefits of God (*Psalms 103:1-5*).
2. Waiting quietly on the Lord brings blessings in due time (*Lamentations 3:25-26*).
3. God strengthens our heart and gives us courage to continue on as we place our hope in Him (*Psalms 31:24*).
4. The heart of man can be deceiving if set only on the desires of this world. God knows our heart best and guides us in the right direction (*Proverbs 4:23; Jeremiah 17:7-9*).

**BACKGROUND SETTING:**

The prophet Jeremiah cried out to God on behalf of his nation, Judah. The people had strayed from the teachings of God, setting the stage for judgment to come: the oppression of the Babylonian Empire and captivity in a foreign land. For a season, the people lost hope in their future as a nation. Still, Jeremiah prophesied that God would be merciful if the people repented and had a change of heart to return to God's ways. After 70 years of captivity, hope was restored as God opened up the way for his people to return to Judah; rebuilding the walls and temple of Jerusalem. Hope was restored to God's people as they began to rebuild their nation and lives again. We too can experience a renewed hope if we set our eyes on God.

Today, many have placed more trust in the words of men rather than that of God. For this reason, they find themselves struggling in difficult times. As Christians, we need to prove or test all things by the *Word of God* and see if it agrees with God's will. "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (*I Thessalonians 5:21*). In so doing, we can ensure that our future will be one of success rather than failure.

**LESSON SUMMARY:**

We should never lose hope when it comes to our Lord Jesus Christ. Why? The character of God is one of mercy and compassion (*Psalms 103:8*). If we have a change of heart to do what is right according to the *Bible*, God will do what is right for us! (*Psalms 1:1-3*) Sometimes the lessons in life can be hard to endure, let alone to understand. Yet, as we put our wholehearted trust in a compassionate God and lean upon His strength, He will work everything out to our own benefit and to His glory.

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