

Hope is not a nicety it's a necessity. Life is hard and we need hope to cope. In the Nativity story the Wise Men traveled for 2 years to find the Christ Child. How do we have hope in our life journey? We'll find out today as we look at how to have hope and overcome despair.

The Hope Of The Wise Men: Overcoming Despair

Matthew 2:1-12

*"When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed."
Proverbs 13:12 (GN)*

Three Things To Unload To Make Room For Hope In Our Life

Remove _____

"Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you." Ephesians 4:29 (GN)

*"The tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being...with the fire that comes to it from hell itself."
James 3:6 (GN)*

Remove _____

*"Don't fool yourselves. Bad friends will destroy you."
1 Corinthians 15:33 (CEV)*

*"Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the LORD...."
Psalms 1:1-3 (GN)*

"The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead." Philippians 3:13 (GN)

Remove _____

*"God cares for you so turn all your worries over to him."
1 Peter 5:7 (CEV)*

"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need ... with a thankful heart." Philippians 4:6 (GN)

*Paul said ... "I live in eager expectation and hope..."
Philippians 1:20 (NLT)*

Put Hope Back Into Our Life

Remember God's _____

*“So when God wanted to prove for certain that his promise to his people could not be broken, he made a vow. God cannot tell lies! And so his promises and vows are two things that can never be changed... Now his promises should greatly encourage us to take hold of the hope that is right in front of us. We have this hope as an anchor for our lives. It is safe and sure...”
Hebrews 6:11 (CEV & GN)*

*“As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us.”
Psalms 103:12 (NIV)*

*“We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him.” Romans 8:28 (GN)
also see 1 Peter 1:3*

“What God has planned for people who love him is more than eyes have seen or ears have heard. It has never even entered our minds!” 1 Cor. 2:9 (CEV)

Remember God’s _____

“And be sure of this: I am with you always...” Matthew 28:20 (NLT)

“Don’t worry, because I am with you. Don’t be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you.” Is. 41:10 (NCV)

“The LORD All-Powerful is with us.” Psalms 46:7 (NCV)

Start Each Day With God
(Mark 1:33 - Psalms 5:3, 118:24)

Remember God’s _____

“Now I say... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” Matthew 16:18 (NLT)

**God Cannot Be _____ or _____
_____ or _____ (Mark 4:30-32)**

“Jesus said: God’s kingdom is like what happens when a farmer scatters seed in a field. The farmer sleeps at night and is up and around during the day. Yet the seeds keep sprouting and growing, and he doesn’t understand how. It is the ground that makes the seeds sprout and grow into plants that produce grain.” Mark 4:26-28 (CEV)

Remember God’s _____

“I alone know the plans I have for you...I will bless you with a future filled with hope...” Jeremiah. 29:11 (GN & CEV)

Don’t judge the end by the beginning!

“Jesus said: What is God’s kingdom like?...It is the smallest seed in all the world. But once it is planted, it grows larger than any garden plant. It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade.” Mark 4:30-32 (CEV)