

Sermon Series: Living with Hope in a Broken World

To be used with: The Expression of Our Hope

Sermon Title: Transformed By Hope

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-25

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study “*The Expression of Our Hope*,” this sermon explores the ways in which our hope should be expressed in our daily lives. There should be a noticeable difference in our behavior because of our relationship to God.

**Introduction:** Have you ever had the experience of looking at someone and thinking that there was just something different about that person? Maybe something stood out about their demeanor and the way they carried themselves. Somehow, they distinguished themselves from everyone else and perhaps made you want to find out more about them.

As Christians, we should stand out from nonbelievers. Our uniqueness should not be based merely upon our individual characteristics, however. Rather, we should stand out because of our connection to God. Although we are not of the world (John 17:16), we are currently living in it, and should use this opportunity to allow others to see how God is at work in our lives.

### **1. We must have a holy mindset. (v. 13-16)**

Before our actions can change, our minds have to change. People preparing for an important task, such as a competition, exam, or presentation, mentally prepare themselves for the task at hand. They get their heads in the game. They also have to keep their heads in the game if they want to be successful in the end.

If we are going to live for the glory of God, we must be intentional. We have to keep God’s gift of salvation foremost in our minds. The world should not be shaping our thinking (Romans 12:2). Our holy God sets the standard for how we should think, and ultimately, how we should behave.

### **2. We serve a holy Savior. (v. 17-21)**

Completing a monumental task requires you to have a great amount of motivation, particularly if the task takes a long time. The Christian life has been referred to as being a marathon rather than a sprint. While running this race we should focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2). He is the perfect example of how to run the race and the perfect motivation for us to keep running.

Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross makes our salvation possible. This gift is precious to us because of its cost to Him. Just as God’s deliverance of the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt was central to the people following Him, so too is our deliverance from sin through Jesus central to our service and submission to God.

### **3. We are to act with holy love. (v. 22-25)**

The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone. Our hope in God is demonstrated by the manner in which we treat one another. Showing love to each other is the way we show all people that we follow Jesus (John 13:35). This love is an indication of the power of God's salvation.

We have been saved through hearing and believing the Word of God. The Word of God will never fail, but instead it will endure forever. We can count on God's Word, even when everything else fades away. God's powerful Word preached to us and God's powerful love shown to us through Jesus enable us to show love to one another.

**Conclusion:** Holiness is about being set apart. God set us apart when He called us and began working in us through the Holy Spirit. Being set apart is not for our isolation, however. Rather, the love we show to both believers and nonbelievers alike sets us apart in an era in which many people only look out for themselves.

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