



A Gift For

From

STRENGTH *for the* SOUL *from* OUR DAILY BREAD

A decorative horizontal banner with a repeating pattern of small circles. The background features a faint, light-colored illustration of various flowers and leaves. The word "Hope" is written in a large, elegant, dark blue cursive font across the center of the banner.

Hope



Discovery House Publishers

Books, music, and videos that feed the soul with the Word of God

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Introduction

Since April 1956, millions of readers around the world have found daily inspiration, hope, comfort, and biblical truth from the pages of *Our Daily Bread*. Now you can find encouragement from one of the most beloved devotionals on the subject of hope, compiled into one convenient volume.

We believe that this book will be of help to you and those you know in every circumstance of life. May it and the Word of God bring strength to your soul.

Other books in the Strength for the Soul
from *Our Daily Bread* series

Comfort

Grief

Peace

Prayer

Trust

A Sure Hope

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. . . .

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

—1 JOHN 2:28-29; 3:1-3

I used to be embarrassed by the so-called Christian concept of hope. But now I realize my embarrassment stemmed from an idea I just thought was Christian. To me the word “hope” suggested merely wishing, and that seemed like a weak, almost superstitious way to face the future. I’ve come to understand that hope, in the biblical sense, is much more than just wanting something to happen. It implies certainty and involves confidence and a real sense of expectancy.

I thought of this while reading about some household pets that become greatly disturbed by their owner’s prolonged absence. When temporarily placed in a boarding kennel, it’s possible for them to have a heart attack. Or they become so upset that they actually die from nervous exhaustion or from just giving up. As a result, pet owners who are planning to leave their animals for a period of time are encouraged to give them “hope” by first helping them to “believe” that they will return. This can be done by occasionally boarding the dog or cat for just a day or two to prepare it for longer absences.

These experiences teach the pet to expect its master to come back. They can actually save its life. This is similar to what Christ did for His disciples. After temporarily leaving them in death, He rejoined them three days later. Then, in a rather unpredictable manner, He appeared and reappeared over the next forty days. When He left them for the last time and ascended to Glory, it was only after He had given His followers good reason for the sure hope of His final return.

—MART DE HAAN

The God of Hope

*For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.
From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.
I have become like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long.*

—PSALM 71:5–8

In his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Dr. Viktor E. Frankl recounts a moving personal experience he had in a German concentration camp during World War II.

I was struggling to find the reason for my suffering, my slow dying. In a last violent protest against the hopelessness of imminent death, I sensed my spirit piercing through the enveloping gloom. I felt it transcend that hopeless, meaningless world, and from somewhere I heard a victorious yes in answer to my question of the existence of an ultimate purpose. At that moment a light was lit in a distant farmhouse which stood on the horizon as if painted there, in the midst of the miserable gray of a dawning morning in Bavaria.

Ever since sin brought suffering into the world, God has been saying a resounding yes to man's search for meaning amid the seeming absurdities of life. He reassured Adam and Eve in their helplessness and shame. He encouraged Abraham when He told him he would become the father of many nations. He cheered Israel again and again through the promise of a coming Savior. Then after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, God again said yes by raising Him from the dead. Today His Holy Spirit instills hope in the heart of every suffering one who turns to Christ.

Has life become empty for you? Then voice the psalmist's prayer, "You have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD."

—DENNIS DE HAAN

Filled with Hope

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

*“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—ROMANS 8:35–39
