

You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word. Psalms 119:114

When we use the word “hope” in our American culture, we typically mean the word “wish.” For instance, I hope the Dallas Cowboys have a winning season. Or, I hope to win the lottery. (However, I have been told that I actually have to play the lottery to win the lottery.) The basis in that hope is one’s desire. When hope is used in the Bible, it is based on the confident expectation of what God has promised. The power and strength of that expectation is based on God’s faithfulness. So, while we may desire many things in our lives to be favorable to our desires. Our Hope in God is based on what God has promised us.

I guess the next question is what has God promised you? I believe many people believe that God will provide them an easy life. Or a prosperous life. Or even a life filled with success. That is not the life that God has promised you. Because they had the wrong expectation of God, they want to turn away from God. He has made a promise that He will walk along with you. When life gets tough, He has promised to carry you. And finally, at the end of life, He has promised you a home to be with Him. When we understand the correct expectation of God’s promise, we will learn to turn to Him and not to turn away. We cannot see God, but He is there. Let me encourage you to not let go of the unseen hand of God. Because, when you hold onto His hand, you will feel and understand the protection that only He can provide.

--Lane