
The Pursuit of Holiness

Living Above Normal

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, January 21, 2018*

God Wants Me to Live in Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” **1 Peter 1:3–5, ESV**

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11, ESV*

To Know Jesus Is to Know Where to Find Hope in
Times of Crisis

Jesus Secures Our Hope –
The Guarantee of Hope Was Paid for On the Cross

Our Hope Is Found in the Resurrection

1 – The Hope of Eternity

2 – The Hope of Power – Provision and
God’s Presence Today

Our Hope Is Found in Our Inheritance

Our Hope is Being Guarded Through Faith

There Is an Inseparable Connection Between
Hope and Faith

Problem:

Insufficient Faith Leads to a Life Without Hope

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested

by fire—**may be found to result in praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls." **1 Peter 1:6–9, ESV**

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." **1 Corinthians 13:13, ESV**

An Untested Faith Is an Insufficient Faith

How Does God Build My Faith?

We are Called to Live a Life Above Normal

"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was

indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look." **1 Peter 1:10–12, ESV**

Holiness Is Not Just About Being Good
It's About Living Different

A Christian Has a Cause – A Reason to Hope

So God Gave Us...

His Spirit to Live in Us

His Word to Teach and Instruct Us

His Church to Encourage Us