



Part 4: Hope for the Future

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Hope is waiting for, desiring for, expecting for something beneficial in the future.

1. Gut Check

Question: Lord Jesus, am I hopeful with you? Is our relationship right? Are we good?

Revelation 4:11; Ephesians 2:8-10; Proverbs 3:5-6

2. Letting Go

The opposite of hope is control.

Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds thrive without water? While still growing and uncut, they wither more quickly than grass. Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perishes the hope of the godless. - Job 8:11-13

Question: Lord, what do you want me to stop doing in 2017? What do I need to give up control over?

3. Letting Go of Stuff

Mark 10:17-23 (The Parable of the Rich Young Man)

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. - Exodus 20:17

Question: Is any of my stuff getting in the way of my pursuit of Jesus? Has my hope been depleted by my pursuit of material wealth?

4. Being Proactive

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17

Question: What will you proactively do in 2017 to prioritize Jesus?

Ideas for Prioritizing Jesus

- Gratitude first
- Leverage your gifts and passions for Jesus
- Be present
- Daily touchpoints
- Bible before electronics
- Jesus-guided acts of service
- www.theprayercovenant.org
- Intentionally pursuing Godly friendships

Small Group Questions

- 1) As we enter 2017, what do you think our culture is dreading? What is our culture excited about?
- 2) Contrasting those two, what does this tell you?
- 3) Hope is waiting for or desiring something beneficial in the future. If you could have one hope fulfilled this year, what would it be?
- 4) With Proverbs 3:5-6 in mind, where do you need to give up control? (This, by the way, is how we find hope; by letting go of control and allowing God to guide our ways.)
- 5) As you listened to God and responded during the message, what's the single most important thing you wrote down?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now, this week, and for the coming year?