

GOOD NEWS OF HOPE



Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope; patient in affliction; faithful in prayer."

Do not think that you have nothing to live for.

Although you are ill and weak, you may still have positive expectations.

It is important for you to still have hope.

Optimistic people do not give up hope, but without hope your strength will seep away.

The question is: From where do you get the courage to keep on being positive and cheerful in spite of your illness?

This is your answer:

Romans 15:4: "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope"

You have now much time for reading the Bible.

Apply your mind to the Word of God and you will hear the promises he made to you, and those will encourage you.

- You will hear that peace has been established between you and God through his Son, Jesus Christ (Rom 5:1).
- You will hear that the reconciliation in Christ has prepared for you an everlasting destination which is now bringing joy to your life: "And we boast in the hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:2).
- You will hear that God loves you, and that this love fulfils your inner life with hope: "... because God's love has been poured out into

our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" (Rom 5:5).

- You will hear that you are not indemnified from sickness and pain - they are part of this world - but you will be able to fight courageously against it and to conquer: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The hope of which you read in the Bible is not a "maybe". It is a glorious certainty that has just not yet realised - but it will happen without any doubt, for God who is faithful, promised it.

If you know and obey the Word of God, your patience and hope will not dwindle away.

Your heart will rejoice over the Word.

It will make you steadfast like a tough desert plant which still flourishes amidst the most difficult circumstances.

The revealed Word will encourage you to pray persistently in order to understand the willing of God.

God's solemn Word will fulfil you with joy and hope and "... the cheerful heart has a continual feast" (Proverbs 15:15).



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