



## House of Hope Macon

### “A Journey of Hope” – Proverbs 23:18 ESV

#### A HOPE THAT FIGHTS

##### I Timothy 6:12

#### INTRODUCTION: The BIBLE Definition of Hope

A Christian's definition of hope is far superior to that of the world. Instead of wishing or hoping for something to happen, a believer knows that their hope is solid, concrete evidence because it is grounded in the Word of God and we know that God cannot lie (Heb 6:18; Num 23:19).

The Christian has a hope that is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1). It is a hope that is like faith...a faith that cannot be moved by circumstances or what the eyes see because an unseen God is seen in His faithfulness.

- i. The Greek word translated "trials" (*peirasmois*) means a "proving," specifically "the trial of a man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy also an enticement to sin, temptation.
- ii. "Testing" (Gr. *dokimion*) implies demonstrating the true quality of something when it undergoes a trial. The character of God within a Christian that is there because of the Holy Spirit's presence becomes apparent through trials.

#### LESSON:

- I. The Christian must know there is an attack **AGAINST** their faith.

Luke 22:31-32; I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 4: 7

- II. The Christian must know that all attacks are **ALLOWED** by God.

Deuteronomy 9:15-16; Job 32:10; II Corinthians 12: 7-8

##### A. Stenneth Powell

- (i) Some troubles are God's will.
- (ii) Trouble sometimes comes to break tradition.
- (iii) Trouble comes to bring the truth about us to the top.

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(iv) Trouble comes to measure our true relationship with God and our belief in His promises for our lives.

B. Andy Stanley

(i) The most important thing God asks is that you trust Him. Doing so may not seem to require a lot of faith when things are going well but when life turns messy.

(ii) Often our faith in God rests upon what we interpret as His activity—or lack of it, in our everyday lives.

C. Paul G. Apple

(i) Trials expose our need for wisdom.

(ii) Trials drive us to God for answers and for the grace to endure.

D. Barclay

(i) Faith is not simply the ability to bear things; it is the ability to turn them to greatness and glory.

III. The Christian must control their **ATTITUDE** when facing trials.

James 1:1-4

A. Trials should be **EXPECTED**.

V. 2; I Peter 4:12

B. Trials should be **EMBRACED**.

V. 2; I Peter 4:12-13

C. Trials should be **ENDURED**.

James 1:3

D. Trials should raise our level of **EXPECTATION**. I Peter 1:6-7; II Corinthians 4:16-18

IV. The Christian must take the right **ACTION** when facing trials.

A. Be willing to face insurmountable **OPPOSITION**.

Judges 7:1-9; I Peter 5:10

B. Be willing to **OBEY** God when it doesn't make sense.

II Kings 5:9-14