

Got Hope?

Got Milk? is an advertising campaign encouraging the consumption of cow's milk, which was created by the advertising agency Goodby Silverstein & Partners for use by milk processors and dairy farmers. It has been running since October 1993, is now running internationally, and has been credited with greatly increasing milk sales in North America after a 20-year slump. The ads would typically feature people in various situations involving dry or sticky foods and treats such as peanut butter. The person then finds himself in an uncomfortable situation due to a full mouth and no milk to wash it down. At the end of the commercial the character would look sadly to the camera and boldly displayed would be the words, "**Got Milk?**"

Today I want to boldly ask YOU a question – “GOT HOPE?” I have been captured this week by the word “hope” in the Scriptures, and by another word that so often accompanies “hope” – the word “WAIT.” This won't be much of a sermon, I'm afraid, but I hope it is a MESSAGE just for you!

HOPE in Scripture means “favourable and confident expectation.” When it is used as a verb, it is often accompanied by two prepositions – we are exhorted to put our hope “IN” a person (GOD), and to rest our hope “ON” a certain solid ground (GOD'S PROMISE). And one of the Hebrew words for “hope” actually literally means “something waited for.”

Psalms 39:7 (KJV) And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.

Psalms 119:81 (KJV) My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

Psalms 130:5 (KJV) I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Psalms 71:14 (KJV) But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Proverbs 13:12 (KJV) Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Lamentations 3:21-26 (KJV) ²¹ This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. ²² It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. ²⁴ The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. ²⁵ The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. ²⁶ It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Romans 12:12 (KJV) Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 5:1-5 (KJV) ¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:24-25 (KJV) ²⁴ For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? ²⁵ But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Colossians 1:27 (KJV) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (KJV) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; **and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.**

LIFE CAN GO BADLY, BUT ETERNAL LIFE CANNOT!

1 Corinthians 15:19 (KJV) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Titus 2:11-13 (KJV) ¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 John 3:2-3 (KJV) ² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

There is a difference between PROCESS and PROMISE – if we don't trust God in the PROCESS, we are not worthy of the PROMISE.

Perhaps the best example of this kind of HOPE in Scripture is Abraham, who had a PROMISE so big that it was staggering. But he had such a faith and trust in God that he didn't waver, even when the PROCESS looked like it was moving in reverse!

Romans 4:17-21 (KJV) ¹⁷ (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. ¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. ¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: ²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

In spite of Abraham's failures and sins, God kept His promise and Isaac was born. Many of God's promises do not depend on our character (which can waver) but on His faithfulness (which cannot).

Hebrews 6:13-18 (KJV) ¹³ For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, ¹⁴ Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. ¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: ¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

God not only gave Abraham a promise, but He also confirmed that promise with an oath. (Genesis 22:15-18) When a witness takes an oath in court, he says the words "so help me God." We call on the greater to witness for the lesser. None is greater than God, so He swore by Himself! His promise and his oath are BOTH immutable.

God said to Abraham, "I swear I'm going to bless you." Why did He swear? To make a covenant that He was telling the truth!

- Sometimes, it will look like I'm a liar.
- Sometimes, it will look like serving me doesn't work.
- Sometimes, things will get worse before they get better.
- Sometimes, it will look like you're going backward instead of forward.
- Sometimes, it will look like I'm trying to kill you instead of bless you.

BUT I SWEAR I'M GOING TO BLESS YOU!

You cannot get the PROMISE unless you go through the PROCESS!

David, Joseph, etc ... **I swear I'm going to bless you!**

GOT HOPE?