

THE VIRTUE OF HOPE

By Nino Boezio

Many people live through life without hope or get into a hopeless state of mind at various stages of their life. It is important to understand what hope means and then seek some solutions to revive this important quality.

The *Merriam Webster's Dictionary* defines hope as desiring or cherishing something with anticipation, to want something to happen. The *Oxford Dictionary* states that hope is expectation and desire combined.

There was a politician who spoke a number of years ago, on how he wanted to cut back various social and welfare programs, in order to bring back hope. He actually got elected!

The politician emphasized that when we look to the future and work hard to bring about a positive outcome, it develops a quality in our character that we don't receive when things are just handed over to us freely. Of course, there may be times when people do need social assistance and other help, since they can't do it on their own. But there are many other cases where, when people struggle and also work together as a community to reach an objective, positive outcomes happen. Hope was a very important virtue held in prior generations that has been somewhat lost within our society today.

Despite all of our human activities and all our efforts to make things work out differently, life may still reach a point where a solution appears hopeless. But from a biblical perspective and where God is involved, we need not remain in a state of hopelessness. There are many references in the Bible that give us hope and enable us to change the future, as summarized in the following biblical statement: *Romans 15:4 (NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

Hope is a very important ingredient that can change your world. It can work alongside other activities including the exercise of faith, to bring about positive change. So it is vital that you remain hopeful. Use the attribute of hope to bring about a change in direction and a positive outcome in your life!

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