

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: ADVENT

Title: Hope

Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12

Speaker: Steve Berg

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WARM-UP

In December 2020 Mental Health Research Canada (MHRC) surveyed 2,761 adult Canadians and found that 22% of those surveyed reported that they had been diagnosed with depression, with another 20% saying they had received an anxiety disorder diagnosis. Both of those rates are the highest MHRC has measured, and 4% higher than before the pandemic. The reasons might seem obvious, but offer your thoughts about the reasons for hopelessness and depression in 2021.

On a scale of 1 (despair) - 10 (hope) how would you describe your place now?

DISCUSSION

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 launches into this letter about "hope in suffering" with a jolt of "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!" Put into your own words these four foundation corners of praise and give your reasons for how these are essential to living with hope.
- Even though we praise God, all of us will face difficult things in life. 1 Peter 1:6-9 says that we can live in pain and suffering with "rejoicing." I recently read, "Christian hope has unique dimensions that can only emerge when seen through the lens of our pain and suffering..." *Kutter Callaway*. How can we experience joy while facing pain and suffering with hope?
- According to 1 Peter 1:10-12, in what way can we live with hope today more than the prophets of the Old Testament? Believers in every generation have experienced different advantages/disadvantages to their place in God's timetable. Take a moment and think about all the reasons for hope that we have because we live in the 21st C., at this point in God's timetable?
- I am pointing you to two articles about living with hope that have been challenging and helpful for me this week. The first, wrestles with hope "refined like gold" through suffering physical disability. The second, is a soundly wise "kick in the pants" to live with hope.

[Restoring Hope: Being Weak and Becoming Well](https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/restoring-hope-weak-becoming-well/)—<https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/restoring-hope-weak-becoming-well/>

[How to have hope in a bleak world](https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2020/10/how-have-hope-bleak-world)—<https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2020/10/how-have-hope-bleak-world>