



The best word to describe how many of us feel about our world is ***uncertain***. We are uncertain about our jobs, our ability to pay the bills, our ability to retire, our national economy, etc., etc. How are we supposed to respond? What are we supposed to do? How does our faith shape our response?

Let's begin by talking about hope. Psalm 33:22 says, "May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you" (NIV).

God's unfailing love → our hope in Him

HOPE DEFINED

Hope is a confident **expectation** and **desire** that something good is in the future.

It is a universal component of human beings. It is embedded deeply into our spirit.

Proverbs 13:22, *When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed.* (TEV)

AN UNCOMMON HOPE

The most common objects of hope in America are **power**, **position**, and **prosperity**.

1 Timothy 6:17, *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God.* (NIV)

Finding hope in a broken world...

- Everything is **frustrated** and **decaying**.

Romans 8:20-21, *Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay.* (NIV)

- This creates a **tension** in us as we long for something better.

Romans 8:22-23, *Creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. We ourselves...also groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.* (NIV)

- We were **saved** to this hope.

Romans 8:24, *For in this hope we were saved.* (NIV)

- God understands our **struggles** and his Spirit helps us.

Romans 8:26, *The Spirit helps us in our weakness...he intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.* (NIV)

- This means that God is **for us**.

Romans 8:31, *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?* (NIV)

- God's love establishes our lives in **his hope**.

Romans 8:37-39, *In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am convinced that neither life nor death, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future...nor any power nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (NIV)

THE EASTER MESSAGE

Matthew 28:8-10, *The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy...Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them. '**Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. We will meet there.**'*