



The Roller Coaster of Hope

Serving Leaders in Life

Excerpt is from Preach2Engage.com an initiative of the Great Commandment Network®

“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21).

Pastor: To lead most effectively during these turbulent times, it will be important to prioritize moments for your **SPIRITUAL HEALTH**. Here’s a short devotional to encourage you, as you navigate the roller coaster of hope.

We each experience the ups and downs of hope. Some days, we’re hope-filled about the future, and other days, hope seems lost. For instance, you may have:

- hoped the virus wouldn’t find its way to our country, but it did.
- hoped the virus wouldn’t affect our schools, sporting events, or social gatherings, but it has.
- hoped the virus wouldn’t disrupt our worship gatherings, but that is indeed the case.
- hoped the virus wouldn’t affect anyone you knew, but even this has become true for many.

The gospel of Luke reminds us of two weary travelers who shared our roller coaster of hope.

Reread the roller coaster story of the Emmaus road disciples and observe three insights into how hope can fade.

1. Hope fades when we miss seeing Jesus in our situation.

“But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him” (Luke 24:16).

Pause for a moment of personal prayer:

“Jesus, open the eyes of my heart so I might see You and recognize Your faithfulness during this present crisis.”



2. Hope fades when we ask the wrong questions.

“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21).

Pause for a moment of personal prayer:

“Lord Jesus, the disciples were asking the wrong question and I don’t want to do that. So please help me move beyond the obvious rational questions of, ‘Why?’ ‘Why me?’ ‘Why us?’ ‘Why now?’ Instead, help me resolve the more important relational question of, ‘Do you care?’

I’m asking for Your Spirit to reassure and affirm this truth in me: ‘He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things’ (Romans 8:32). Father, because You have given me Jesus, I am confident that You will not withhold anything from me that’s needed for victory and hope in this present crisis.”

3. Hope fades when we fail to embrace His Word.

“And He [Jesus] said to them, ‘O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’” (Luke 24:25).

Pause for a moment of personal prayer:

“Lord Jesus, I don’t want to be like the disciples who were ‘slow of heart’ and had trouble believing your Word! I know that even during fatal epidemic, You are my refuge and my fortress. You are my Deliverer, Protector, and Shield (Psalm 91:1—4). I am trusting You today to . . .”

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Could the God of hope be a person of hope for you today?

[Click to Download our *Hope is a Person* sermon.](#)



Could God be drawing you into a closer relationship with Him? [Click to watch this video from Dr. Tony Evans](#) and hear God’s appeal for a closer relationship. *“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).*

To see the entire video of Dr. Tony Evans, [click here.](#)

