

Hope

Script - **Prov. 13:12**

Introduction - Insight from Solomon

1. Wonders of Egypt

a. Pyramids

b. Sphinx

2. The Wisdom of Solomon

a. 1 Ki. 4:29-30

b. Prov. 13:12

A. What is hope? (Definition)

1. The feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best: to give up hope.

2. A particular instance of this feeling: the hope of winning.

3. Grounds for this feeling in a particular instance: There is little or no hope of his recovery.

4. A person or thing in which expectations are centered: The medicine was her last hope.

5. Something that is hoped for: Her forgiveness is my constant hope.

6. To look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence.

7. To believe, desire, or trust: I hope that my work will be satisfactory.

8. To feel that something desired may happen: We hope for an early spring.

9. Archaic. to place trust; rely in.

B. What things do people desire, hope for, dream about?

1. Home
2. Good relationships; companionship.
3. Financial stability (Money).
4. Forgiveness of sins; being right with God. Peace.
5. Hope to be able to pay our bills this month.
6. Health
7. A better world - heaven.

C. Hope is usually tied to a goal or vision.

1. **Proverbs 13:12** Hope deferred makes the heart sick... but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. NKJV

- a. Hope deferred makes the heart sick...
- b. but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.
- c. Vision = the power source; and hope is the fuel.

2. **Prov. 29:18** Where there is no vision, the people perish... KJV

3. The racing greyhounds (Illustrates what happens when you lose your vision).

D. What is a vision

1. Popular concept of a vision is **Acts 2:17**

a. **Acts 2:17** 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. NKJV (It is not something mystical).

2. Definition of vision - A vision is a precise, clearly defined goal, with a detailed plan and timetable for achieving that goal.

3. Example of Jesus - He knew what his mission was and he did not deviate from it.

a. **Isa. 53:11** He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. NKJV

b. **John 8:14** ...I know where I came from and where I am going... NKJV

4. **Proverbs 13:12** Hope deferred makes the heart sick... but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life. NKJV

E. How to keep your hope alive - clarify your vision

1. In your personal life - have measurable goals not nebulas

a. **Prov 23:7** For as he thinks in his heart, so is he... NKJV

b. **Prov 4:26** Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. NKJV (Plan Ahead).

2. In your walk with God - clarify your vision.

b. Through interacting with Jesus - Prayer - create a relationship; talk to God.

b. Study His will.

3. The SDA Church - a worldwide church and vision.

a. Schools; hospitals; printing presses, etc.

4. A Church building project - Planning ahead - Vision

a. Dream about the possibilities (dreamers, visionaries). The new church building.

b. Drawing a precise plan.

c. Raising the funds to make it possible.

d. Hiring workers to do the job.

e. Accomplishing the task, building the building.

f. Using the building for it's intended purpose.

Cod fish

There is a story told about a problem that some fishermen had years ago trying to ship the codfish that were caught in the Northeast. If the fish were shipped frozen they arrived at the market, but they had lost much of their flavor. When the fish were shipped live, they arrived flavorless and would not sell because they were soft and mushy. Neither was acceptable for the fishermen to ship the fish across the country. After many possible solutions, finally one was tried that worked. They shipped the fish alive across the country, but put catfish in the bins where these live fish were stored. The reason: the catfish is the natural enemy of the codfish. During the entire journey the fish were swimming for their lives. The end result: they arrived fresh. The pressure made them better. I think it is good for us to remember that while life is rugged at times, there is something else that is going on. God is in the process of making us different, better, and more usable. It doesn't mean that the pressure goes away, but it does mean the pressure has a purpose. Hope lives when we begin to understand that.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/sermon-hope-pressure-2-thessalonians-1>

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