

September 19 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

Unshakable Hope: Chapter 1: God's Great and Precious Promises

So what (who) is this Hope?

What are God's great and precious promises that you claim?

Our God of Hope has given us His very great and precious promises so that through them we may participate in the divine nature (*2 Peter 1:4*). These promises of God are of such great value that merely possessing them has already allowed us to participate in the "divine nature", i.e., to be in fellowship and partners with Christ, to answer Jesus' call to live in His glory and goodness, to be a part of the new things God is doing in our lives and in the world.

No matter what storms come our way, we are anchored in the Word of God, in the promises He made. In the catacombs of Rome, where Christians hid in times of persecution, one symbol can be seen more than any other: the **anchor**. As Christians, we expect with certainty (*Tiqvah*) – a sure hope that God will do what He says. This hope we hold as the utterly reliable anchor for our souls, fixed in the very certainty of God himself in Heaven, where Jesus has already entered on our behalf (*Hebrews 6:18-20*).

Faithful to God's perfect plans, we wait patiently, hoping (*Yachal*) through the strength and help of His Presence (*Psalms 42:5, Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:8*) in our time of need.

This hope that we have is founded in the saving faith that God has given us – a faith that is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (*Hebrews 11:1*). A substance that is the absolute guarantee of what God promises. Faith is taking God at His Word. Hebrews 11 commends all of the heroes of faith, the heirs to the Kingdom of God, who took hold of the promises of God and overcame what laid before them. Yet we are reminded that God's plan was "something even better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect" (*Hebrews 11:40*).

We can take courage from the words of Paul in the midst of a life-threatening ship wreck, "so keep your courage men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me" (*Acts 27:25*).

We are told that our God is unchanging (*James 1:17*); our God is strong (*Romans 4:20-21*); our God can be trusted to keep His promises (*Hebrews 10:23*).

We find our ultimate hope in the promise of Jesus, who upon being amazed at the faith of the centurion in seeking healing for his servant, said: "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from east and west, and will take their places in the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." (*Matthew 8:5-13*)

Jesus, our Hope, fulfills Isaiah's prophetic promise as He proclaims that "in His name the nations will hope" (*Matthew 12:21*).

A song to reflect and pray on: [Michael W. Smith - Way Maker \(Official Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)