

## HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR



I was recently at a conference for women who were gathered together really for just one purpose and that was to hear that there is **hope** for them in their situations. **Hope** can be very elusive at times. When the future looks very dark and the pain of living every day becomes overwhelming, **hope** seems out of reach. Sometimes we get confused by the usage of the word. We hear “I hope it won’t snow today” or “I hope those shoes are still on sale.” In those phrases we hear hope as just another way to say “wish” and wishes are like fog that at times, just fades away, nothing substantial.

The **hope** I want you to think about is a noun (a thing) as opposed to a verb (an action). The **hope** that we’re offered by our heavenly Father is solid and won’t just dry up like the morning dew when the sun hits it. **Hebrews 6:18b-19a** says, “*...we who have fled to take hold of the **hope** offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this **hope** as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*” This whole passage is talking about the reliability of the promises of God from the beginning of time right up to today and into the future. The promises weren’t just for then but for us, now.

The **hope** we’re offered and can depend on is an “*anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*” I don’t know how it

could be any more solid; any more dependable; any more available. We have this **hope** and can be *“greatly encouraged”* because God also said, *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope** and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you, you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,’ declares the Lord.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-13) When we have no idea what the plan is or even if there is one, God **“knows”**. When we are at the lowest points of our lives, **hope** is still there. It doesn't go away just because we are grieving, depressed, anxious, or discouraged. It is still solid, still firm, still real, still promised by the God, your heavenly Father, who loves you more than anything! Our **HOPE** is in Him alone and He wants us to have it. Seek Him and the **hope** He alone can give *“with all your heart”* and you won't be disappointed.

*Blessings for the new week!*  
*Georgia*