

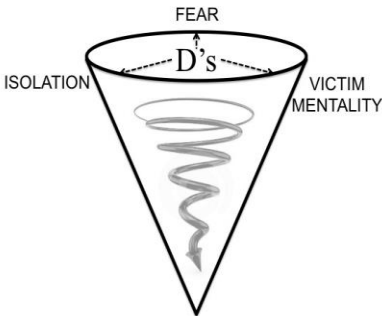


1 Corinthians 13:7

*[Love] always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres.*

Week #3: Love > Despair

:: Despair is not exceptional, it's COMMON.



Proverbs 13:12a - *Hope deferred
makes the heart sick.*

Psalm 147:11 - *The Lord delights
in those who fear him, who put
their hope in his unfailing love.*

Psalm 33:18 - *But the eyes of the
Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose hope is in his
unfailing love.*

:: Hope is NOT:

...WISHFUL thinking.

...subject to CIRCUMSTANCES.

...taken but FORFEITED.

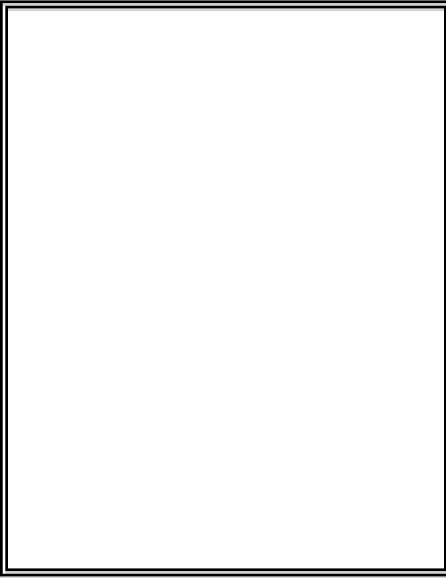
Romans 15:13a (NLV)

Our hope comes from God.

:: Where there is FAITH, there is hope.

Hebrews 11:1

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what
we do not see.*



:: Hope is forfeited in circumstances, but acquired in [TRUST](#).

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

:: Hope is cultivated when our perspective is bigger than [OUR](#) circumstances.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Where are circumstances shaping what [LOVE](#) should define?

So What?

:: [GO](#) to those without hope.

:: [BE](#) an agent of hope.

:: [LOVE](#) with expectant hope.

Psalm 78:6-7(ESV)

⁶ *that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
⁷ so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments.*

How to start a relationship with Jesus:

- 1) Admit that you, like everyone else, are a sinner.
- 2) Ask for forgiveness from God.
- 3) Start a relationship with God by trusting in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus: I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I give all I am to all of you. In your name I pray, amen.

For Further Reflection:

- :: Share a time you, or someone you know, struggled with despair.
- :: Take a moment to read John 11.
- :: What are some of your initial observations from this passage?
- :: Why did Jesus wait when he found out Lazarus was sick?
- :: What circumstances positioned the people to embrace despair?
- :: How did Martha respond compared to Mary? Who do you relate to more often? Why?
- :: What was the difference between those who despaired and those who didn't?
- :: Can you think of a time when you asked God to do something and he didn't? Why might He have done that?
- :: Pastor Shawn said, "Hope is cultivated when our perspective is bigger than our circumstances." What do you think that means? How have you seen that to be true?
- :: Who do you know that is, or might be, struggling with despair?
- :: What's one way you can follow Jesus' example & Go.Be.Love?



Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin), August 22 & 23, 2015

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