

HOPE IN THE D A R K

We are people of [HOPE](#).

Romans 15:13 [NIV]

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.

Isaiah 45:6b-12 (NLT)

^{6b} ...so all the world from east to west
will know there is no other God.

I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ *I create the light and make the darkness.*

I send good times and bad times.

I, the Lord, am the one who does these things.

⁸ "Open up, O heavens,
and pour out your righteousness.

Let the earth open wide
so salvation and righteousness can sprout up together.

I, the Lord, created them.

⁹ "What sorrow awaits those who argue with their Creator.

Does a clay pot argue with its maker?

Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying,

'Stop, you're doing it wrong!'

Does the pot exclaim,

'How clumsy can you be?'

¹⁰ *How terrible it would be if a newborn baby said to its father,*

'Why was I born?'

or if it said to its mother,

'Why did you make me this way?'"

¹¹ *This is what the Lord says—*

the Holy One of Israel and your Creator:

"Do you question what I do for my children?

Do you give me orders about the work of my hands?

¹² *I am the one who made the earth*

and created people to live on it.

With my hands I stretched out the heavens.

All the stars are at my command.

How do we stand **STRONG** in Hope?

- **Know God, Relate through Jesus, Anchor in Holy Spirit**
- **Cultivate our prayer life**
- **Root in the Scriptures**

Romans 15:4-6 (NIV)

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we stay **ACTIVE** in a troubled world? Choose...

- **Faith over Fear**
- **Hope over Discouragement**
- **Victory over Defeat**

Isaiah 45:22-25 (NLT)

²² Let all the world look to me for salvation!

For I am God; there is no other.

²³ I have sworn by my own name;

I have spoken the truth,

and I will never go back on my word:

Every knee will bend to me,

and every tongue will declare allegiance to me.”

²⁴ The people will declare,

“The Lord is the source of all my righteousness and strength.”

And all who were angry with him

will come to him and be ashamed.

*²⁵ In the Lord all the generations of Israel will be justified,
and in him they will boast.*

NOTES:

*"Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried,
but you've actually been planted." — Christine Caine*



heritageqc.com



/heritageqc



heritageqc

How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone, wandered & need to come home.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & 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. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: Which name of God do you most need to know God as? How will you lean into this?

:: Reread Isaiah 45. "I am the Lord and there is no other..."

:: Is there any space in your life that challenges Jesus as Lord alone?

:: What are your dominant feelings as you read this passage?

:: What is keeping you from completely trusting that God has 'got you'?

:: What would it look like for you to live fully in a posture of surrender?

:: Read/Review Romans 15:1-13. As we talk about Hope in the Dark over the next three weeks, we are going to go back to this passage.

:: What do you find most helpful or challenging in this passage?

:: How has Scripture provided hope for you? What is a favorite Scripture that reminds you where your hope is? Why this one?

:: How does unity point people to Jesus?

:: How does the practice of praise encourage us to hope?

:: Pastor Beth talked about life after the fire and the hope that this embodies.

:: Where do you find yourself in the dark waiting for life to bloom?

:: How are you waiting? What practices do you need to cultivate in this season? What can you already identify that God is doing?

:: How will you choose Faith over Fear daily?

:: Invite someone you trust to pray for you & encourage you as you do it.

:: Consider offering to do the same for them.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].
Beth Cossin (@bethcossin) – January 18 & 19, 2020

Watch this message and other recent messages online at heritageqc.com/watch