

Chasing Hope – Week 3 – Hope Giving Promises - Pastor Guy

1. Do you typically prefer the good news first or the bad news first?
2. The bad news is that we will all have things happen in our lives that cause groaning, moaning, struggle, pain, etc. Briefly share one recent bad thing that has happened in your life.

*John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

3. What is your favorite promise that God gives in the Bible?

Pastor Guy mentioned 4 hope filled promises of God:

- *1 John 5:13 – I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*
- *Hebrews 13:5 – God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*
- *Revelation – Jesus wins, one day all will be made right.*
- *Romans 8:28 – And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

4. Which one of these verses brings you the most hope?
5. How does Romans 8:28 make you feel?
6. Have you experienced God working for your good in a bad situation?
7. What conditions does this verse put on God working for our good in all things?
8. How do we know if we love God?

*John 14:15 - "If you love me, obey my commandments.*

*1 John 5:3 - Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.*

9. What do you think about the premise that loving God means keeping His commandments?
10. How is this different from how we often think about love?

*Romans 8:29-31 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

11. Pastor Guy mentioned the verses above referring to God's foreknowledge and our predestination are statements solely about those who have already chosen Christ and do not in any way take away our own free will. What are your thoughts about this?
12. How does it make you feel to know that you have been called, justified, and glorified by God?
13. God is faithful to be working for our good, but we are responsible to live our lives for Him and His purposes. In your life where are you dealing with a struggle that makes it hard to live the way God asks you to?
14. What's one thing you can do when you experience struggle or pain to love God and live according to His purpose?

*Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

15. The fruit of the Spirit is a good gauge of some of the character traits God desires bring into our lives.  
Which ones of these come more naturally to you?
16. Which of the fruit of the Spirit are more difficult to live out?
17. How can we pray for you today?