

## Jesus came to deal with all the dark aspects of our lives... His death and rising again gives hope to the hopeless... and to everyone else!

place where there is no hope, and Jesus took on Himself the hell we deserve. He died, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God. Three days later He rose from the grave – alive! His death and rising again gives hope to the hopeless... and to everyone else!

He has defeated sin, death and hell, and this gives amazing hope. Anyone who will trust Christ as his or her Lord and Saviour, can know forgiveness for all that is past. Such a person can look forward to each new day, knowing that they can do all that is needed of them, with the help of Jesus Christ their constant friend. Once a person has asked Christ to forgive them and be with them,

they are given eternal life, and have the promise that He is preparing a place for them in heaven.

To look forward to being with the Lord forever gives the greatest oomph to living day by day now.

This is not just for a few people, who we imagine are more religious. The hope that God gives is for all who will believe. So the question is, will you turn from everything that cuts you off from God, and turn to the God of hope? In your heart, ask God to forgive you, thank the Lord Jesus for dying and rising from the dead for you, and trust in God's Holy Spirit to give you His hope and confidence for each day.

Will you pray like this today? **"Dear God, thank You that You know all about me. Thank You for Your love, even though I am not the person I ought to be. Thank You that Jesus died for my sin, and rose again for me. Please forgive me, and become my Lord and Saviour. God, I hope in You, for life, death and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen."**

## some HOPE

For centuries some of the most A contented people on earth have been able to say, "Our hope is in you, Oh God!" And they have not been disappointed.



To find out more about Jesus Christ please visit:  
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some  
**HOPE**  
...stake your LIFE on ONE of these?

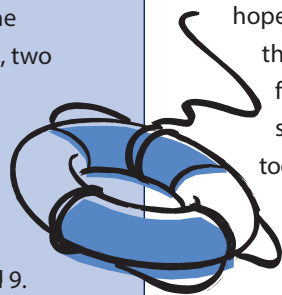


**John Passmore**, a *Daily Telegraph* columnist, attempting to circumnavigate the British Isles was rescued from the upturned hull of his 27ft catamaran, two hours after capsizing off Shetland. Rescue helicopters found him clinging by his fingertips to the wreckage of the Lottie Warren pounded by gigantic waves and winds gusting between Force 8 and 9.

The incident happened in June 2000. Passmore managed to clamber on top of his upturned hull. "I stood there and I looked at the sky, and I thought, 'all I've got to do is hold on' ...and I shouted, 'I'm not going to die. I am not going to die.'" When he was found they said, "He was conscious, but very, very cold." Hope of being rescued had kept him alive.

For 27 years Nelson Mandela was imprisoned in South Africa. Hope for a democratic and free society kept him going.

Olympic athletes discipline and train themselves in the hope of taking home the gold medal.



Martin Luther King made no secret of his hope: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Someone has said, "You can live 40 days without food, 3 days without water, 4 minutes without air, but only a few seconds without hope." To live only for the moment is a recipe for despair, because today has too many problems. We all need hope. But where does it come from? How can we have hope without fooling ourselves?

### **Not a hope**

Millions who buy lottery tickets have their hopes dashed; few teenagers really do grow up to be pop stars, football players, actors or models, and repeated governments prove to be a disappointment to us.

We need hope when we are exhausted, discouraged, feel like giving up, struggling

with pain or illness, fearing the worst, unemployed, waiting, rejected, abandoned, saying goodbye to a loved one, or just living. There's a book entitled, *How to Make Yourself Miserable*; I can guarantee that one way is to take away from yourself all hope.

However, supposing there was a hope that was more than a mirage, greater than a dangling carrot, and based on sure facts. What if there is a hope that brings joy, love and faith to ordinary individuals? Well, here's the good news: there is! All that we are going through is not the end of the story. It can be part of the journey that leads to a wonderful destination.

### **Hope and pray?**

For centuries some of the most contented people on earth have been able to say, "Our hope is in you,



Oh God!" And they have not been disappointed. Instead of putting their confidence in money, political power, military might, other people or man-made gods, they have trusted in the true and living God. He is not a disappointment.

God, who made all things, has spoken to this world and has made many promises. What He has said is the source of hope.

Hope is a gift from God.

The Bible says that God "loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope".

Jesus came to deal with all the dark aspects of our lives. He showed us what is right, lived purely and perfectly, and then suffered and died. On the cross, He

paid the punishment for the sins of which we are guilty. He took on Himself all that would lead to despair. Hell is a

