

## *Hoping in God*

“I hope it doesn’t snow tomorrow, we say, thinking of our plans to visit family or friends.” “I sure hope Susie calls after her plane lands.”...This kind of hope is wishful thinking, sometimes even foolish optimism, and it is not true hope. We’ve used the word so long that we’ve pretty much emptied it of meaning by the time we read Hebrews 6:19 “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”...**Is your hope an anchor for your soul? Has your wishful hope been converted at the foot of the cross to true hope?** Job’s well-tested hope was enlivened by true faith in God-“Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him”. That’s quiet a lot different from merely hoping for the most comfortable outcome. ...**Could it be that our suffering, even that which we bring upon ourselves, provides us with the raw material for true hope?** *Elisabeth Elliot*

“To hope means to look forward expectantly for God’s future activity. The ground of hope is God’s past activity in Jesus Christ, who points the way to God’s purposes for his creation.” *New Dictionary of Theology*

“Though the Christian life is regularly marked more by suffering than by triumph, our hope is sure and our mood should be one of unquenchable confidence: we are on the winning side.” *J.I. Packer*

“God will give us what we need for today and today alone. No mystery here, it is all spelled out. Exodus 16:16-19 “This is what the Lord has commanded: “Each on is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.”...Take as much as you want, but don’t keep even a crumb for tomorrow. In various forms, this will become God’s plan for human life...God’s strategy is to give us enough for today and then, when tomorrow comes, to give us enough for that day too. Do you see how this is exactly what we need? Fears and worries live in the future, trying to assure a good outcome in a potentially hard situation. The last thing they want to do is trust anyone, God included. To thwart this tendency toward independence, God only gives us what we need when we need it.” *Ed Welch, Running Scared, pgs. 76-77*

“It is a matter of much practical importance, that you take heed not to anticipate or to forestall the promised grace. For every possible circumstance in which you may be placed, the fullness of Christ and the supplies of the covenant are provided. That provision is only meted out as the occasions for whose history it was provided occur. Beware of creating trouble by antedating it. Seen through the mist, the advancing object may appear gigantic in size, and terrific in appearance; and yet the trouble you so much

dread may never come; or coming, it will assuredly bring with it the ‘word spoken in due season’. In the case of every child of God, calamity never comes alone; **it invariably brings Jesus with it.**” Octavius Winslow, *Morning Thoughts*, pgs. 17-18

“You need grace for today-just for today.” D.A. Carson, *How Long O Lord*, pg. 251

“Do you see what happens when you follow Satan’s shortcuts? Sin so often seems to offer freedom, but you end up in even greater entanglement than ever. Sin offers a way of escape- but only out of the frying pan and into the fire!...Man by his best efforts cannot bring about the fulfillment of the promises of God. Abram and Sarai disobeyed God, and their sin would have lasting consequences for their descendants. Yet Abram and Sarai did not end up failures. We don’t remember them as the ones who failed, but as having faith (Hebrews 11). The reason for that is that God is faithful, even when we are unfaithful. Their righteousness came not from themselves, nor from their faith, but from the God of whom their faith laid hold.” Ian Duguid, *Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality*, pgs.68,71

“One of the marks of Christian maturity which a believer should seek is acquiescence in the Lord’s will founded in a persuasion of his wisdom, holiness, sovereignty, and goodness...So far as we attain to this, we are secure from disappointment. Our own limited views, shortsighted purposes and desires, may be and will be, often over-ruled; but then our main and leading desire, that the will of the Lord may be done, must be accomplished. How highly does it become us, both as creatures and as sinners, to submit to the appointments of our Maker! And how necessary is it to our peace! This great attainment is too often unthought-of or over-looked; we are prone to fix our attention upon the second causes and immediate instruments of events; forgetting that whatever befalls us is according to his purpose, and therefore must be right and seasonable in itself, and shall in the issue be productive of good. From hence arise impatience, resentment, and secret repinings (complaining), which are not only sinful, but tormenting; whereas, if all things are in his hand, if the very hairs of our head are numbered; if every event, great and small, is under the direction of his providence and purpose; and if he has a wise, holy, and gracious end in view, to which everything that happens is subordinate and subservient;-then we have nothing to do, but with patience and humility to follow as he leads, and cheerfully to expect a happy issue...How happy are they who can resign all to him, see his hand in every dispensation, and believe that he chooses better for them than they possibly could for themselves.” Jerry Bridges quoting John Newton, *Respectable Sins*, pg. 66

## Book Recommendations

1. *Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality: The Gospel According to Abraham* by Ian Dugid (P & R Publishing)
2. *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest* by Ed Welch (New Growth Press)
3. *Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate* by Jerry Bridges (Navpress)
4. *Overcoming Fear, Worry, and Anxiety* by Elise Fitzpatrick (Harvest House Publishers)
5. *A Steadfast Heart* by Elise Fitzpatrick (P&R Publishing)
6. *A Quest for Meekness and Quietness of Spirit* by Matthew Henry (Soli Deo Gloria Publications)