



*Hope*

**That Anchors the Soul**

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## Why This Matters Now

It's hard to ignore the feeling that something is different about the world today. Rapid change, uncertainty, division, and fear seem to touch nearly every corner of life. Many people—whether deeply religious, loosely spiritual, or simply curious—are asking the same questions:

### Where is all this heading?

Is there any real hope?

Does the Bible have anything meaningful to say about our time?

This short book is not about predicting dates or promoting fear. It's about something far more grounded and enduring: hope. The kind of hope that doesn't depend on circumstances, but on a person—Jesus Christ.

### The Bible encouraged believers long ago:

*“Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...” (1 Peter 3:15)*

This is that answer—offered simply, honestly, and with encouragement for anyone searching.

## 1. Did the Bible Really Speak About Our Times?

The Bible was written over 2,000 years ago, yet many of its descriptions of human behavior and global conditions feel strikingly current.

### **Jesus said:**

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... Nation will rise against nation... there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.” (Matthew 24:6–7)

### **The apostle Paul wrote:**

“In the last days there will be terrible times. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud... without love, unforgiving...” (2 Timothy 3:1–3)

### **James warned about economic injustice:**

“The wages you failed to pay the workers... are crying out against you.” (James 5:4)

### **Peter spoke of skepticism:**

“In the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.” (2 Peter 3:3)

### **And Jude echoed a similar message:**

“They are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires...” (Jude 1:16)

These passages aren't meant to frighten—they're meant to prepare. The Bible doesn't present chaos as meaningless; it shows that God has always understood the human condition and the direction of history.

## **2. The Point Is Not Fear—It's Awareness**

It's easy to read these words and feel overwhelmed. But that's not their purpose.

**Jesus was clear:**

“See to it that you are not alarmed.” (Matthew 24:6)

The message is not: “Be afraid, everything is falling apart.”

The message is: “Don't be surprised—and don't lose heart.”

**In fact, Jesus gave a very different instruction:**

“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:28)

In other words, these signs are not just warnings—they are signals that hope is closer than ever.

### **3. What Kind of Hope Are We Talking About?**

The hope the Bible talks about isn't wishful thinking. It's not optimism based on circumstances improving. It's something deeper.

**The apostle Paul described it this way:**

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” (Hebrews 6:19)

An anchor doesn't remove the storm—but it keeps you from drifting.

This hope is rooted in a promise: that Jesus Christ will return, set things right, and establish lasting peace.

**Jesus said:**

“I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

(John 14:3)

### **And the apostle John wrote:**

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...” (Revelation 21:4)

This is not escapism. It’s a future grounded in God’s character and promises.

## **4. But What About Right Now?**

It’s natural to think: That sounds good for the future—but what about today?

The Bible doesn’t just point forward; it gives practical guidance for living now.

### **Peace in the middle of anxiety:**

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled.” (John 14:27)

### **Strength in difficult times:**

The great apostle Paul confided, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens *me*.” (*Philippians 4:13*)

### **Wisdom when life feels confusing:**

James the apostle instructed his readers, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God... and it will be given to you.” (James 1:5)

### **Confidence instead of fear:**

Peter, the apostle weighs in on the conversation, “Cast all your anxiety on Him (Jesus) because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

These are not abstract ideas—they are invitations to experience real change in how we face life.

## **5. Faith Is Not About Having Everything Figured Out**

Many people hesitate when it comes to faith because they feel unsure, skeptical, or even disappointed by religion. That’s understandable. The Bible doesn’t require perfect understanding—it invites trust.

Even the early followers of Jesus had doubts. What mattered was their willingness to seek truth honestly.

### **Jesus said:**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”  
(Matthew 11:28)

That invitation still stands.

## **6. What Does It Mean to Live with Hope?**

Living with this kind of hope doesn’t mean withdrawing from the world. It means engaging it differently.

You can face uncertainty without panic.

You can care about others without losing yourself.

You can endure hardship without losing meaning.

### **Paul wrote:**

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

### **And Peter encouraged:**

“Set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”  
(1 Peter 1:13)

This hope reshapes how we live, not just what we believe.

## **7. The Big Picture: God Has Not Lost Control**

When the world feels unstable, it’s easy to assume that everything is random or

Spiraling beyond repair.

The Bible presents a different perspective: history is moving toward a purpose.

### **Peter wrote:**

*“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise... Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)

God’s timing is not about delay—it’s about opportunity. Opportunity for people to find hope, to turn toward truth, and to experience new life.

## **8. A Simple Starting Point**

If you’re unsure where you stand, you don’t need a complicated process.

Start with honesty.

### **You might simply say:**

God, if you are real, help me understand.

Show me what is true.

Help me find the hope I've been missing.

### **The Bible promises:**

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)

### **Conclusion: A Hope Worth Holding Onto**

The Bible did speak about the kind of world we're living in—but it never left us without an answer.

That answer is not a timeline or a theory.

It's a person—Jesus Christ.

He didn't just warn about the future.

He made a way through it.

*“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*

Whatever your background, questions, or doubts—you're not excluded from this hope.

### **And if someone ever asks you why you have hope, the answer can be simple:**

Because even in uncertain times, there is a promise that holds—and a Savior who keeps it.

### **What Now?**

If you have found encouragement in this little booklet, you might be wondering how this all works or what steps you need to take to figure this out.

The first step is to connect with someone who can answer some of your questions — without judgment or pressure. I invite you to contact me personally for a private, confidential conversation. I am Steve Highlander, Pastor of Community Foursquare Chapel in Ottawa, KS.

My Email is [pastor@ottawafoursquare.org](mailto:pastor@ottawafoursquare.org), my direct number is 785-242-4368.

If you are in the Ottawa, KS area, and you like coffee or a soda, I'll take you out for a drink—my treat! You are also invited to join us for a Sunday morning service. You will find a warm, friendly congregation, sincere worship, solid Biblical teaching, and genuine concern and compassion for you, your family, and your friends.

**The journey to hope, peace, and — ultimately — eternal life starts with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who loved you and gave His life for yours.**

**Jesus said,**

**“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)**

**Why wait? Why keep trying things that don’t work?**

**Why not say, “Jesus, help me?”**

I want to help you find hope, peace, and eternal life —or whatever else you are looking for. Contact me today.

*Pastor Steve*

## Who We Are

This message of hope and encouragement is brought to you by the congregation at



**Community Foursquare Chapel**  
119 East 9th Street, Ottawa, KS 66067  
Phone: 785-242-4368  
Email: [Info@OttawaFoursquare.org](mailto:Info@OttawaFoursquare.org)  
Website: [OttawaFoursquare.org](http://OttawaFoursquare.org)  
Facebook: [Facebook.com/foursquarechapel](https://www.facebook.com/foursquarechapel)

**As a congregation, we believe in the presence and power of God in the world today. God truly loves all people and has promised to bring wholeness - body, soul, and spirit - to all who will allow Him to work in their lives. Our responsibility is to work together to impact our neighborhoods and transform lives and society. We invite you to join us for a time of worship, Bible teaching, and fellowship. We have a fourfold strategy for living out our faith.**

### **Reaching Up**

Our purpose is to reach up through worship, prayer, and meditation to connect with God in real and meaningful ways, allowing Him to work in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Reaching In**

Reaching in involves allowing the Spirit of God to show us what is hindering our lives from becoming all He wants us to be. It also involves finding the strength and courage through the Holy Spirit to fulfill our God-given purposes.

### **Reaching Out**

After connecting to God and allowing Him to work in our lives, we are responsible to reach out to others, sharing with them the good news we have found. We reach out in various ways to our families, neighborhoods, country, and world.

### **Reaching Past**

We endeavor to reach past the hatred, division, and rhetoric in the world today. The gospel of Jesus Christ brought equity to the rich and poor, servants and masters, men and women, and between ethnic groups. In Christ, we strive to see all people as equal in God's sight.

**You are welcome to start or continue your spiritual journey with us.**

**Click here to plan a visit or [Click here to plan a visit or find out more.](#) out more.**

