

The Art of Hopelessness

Don't stop believin'
Hold on to that feelin'

Humanity loses hope

When hope becomes a feeling

True hope is born from the
optimism of knowing the future is
in God's hands

False hope is born from putting
the future in our own hands.

Truth: The most capable disciple
is the one who knows they are
incapable.

Luke 22: 24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was **considered to be greatest**. 25 Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

Luke 22: 26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

Mark 9: 14 When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. 15 As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

Mark 9: 16 “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. 17 A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

Mark 9: 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

19 “You **unbelieving generation**,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

Mark 9: 20 So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

21 Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

Mark 9: “From childhood,” he answered. 22
“It has often thrown him into fire or water to
kill him. But **if** you can do anything, take pity
on us and help us.”

Mark 9: 23 “If you can’?” said Jesus.

“Everything is possible for one who believes.”

24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

25 When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit.

Mark 9: “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” 26 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, **“He’s dead.”** 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

Desperation drove
the father to Jesus.

Our problem is not that we are
hopeless...

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hopeless...

Our problem is that we are not
hopeless enough.

Irony:

We simultaneously feel hopeless
in our struggles and hopeful that
we can resolve them on our own.

“Everything has its wonders, even
darkness and silence, and I learn,
whatever state I may be in, therein to
be content.”

Helen Keller

To truly find Jesus in this life

you must accept that you are
hopeless without him.

I Timothy 1: 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—**of whom I am the worst.** 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

John 6: 67 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

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68 Simon Peter answered him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Caution:

Seeking Jesus in
hopelessness means Jesus is
the only option.

“If you are defeated once and tell yourself you will overcome, but carry on as before, know in the end you’ll be so ill and weakened that eventually you won’t even notice your mistake and will begin to rationalize your behavior.”

Epictetus, Discourses, 2.18.31

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Matthew 8: 7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed.

Matthew 8: 10 When Jesus heard this, **he was amazed** and said to those following him,
“Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

You'll know you're hopeless
enough when
the pain of staying where you
are exceeds the pain of where
Jesus wants you to be.

One last thought:

Jesus intercedes for those
hopeless enough to seek him.

Mark 9: 28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

29 He replied, “**This kind can come out only by prayer.**”

THOUGH WE STRUGGLE WITH PRAYER
JESUS DOES NOT
(and he's praying for you!)

Where is your hope today?

The Art of Hopelessness

Prayer connects Godly Hope

To the Resurrection of Christ

Don't just expect adversity

Accept it.