



## **ReNew Hope Response Guide**

Bethany Assembly of God

May 10, 2020

- How would you define “Hope?”
- What is something you’ve recently hoped for or have looked forward to?
- Are there different kinds of hope?
- Hope is looking forward to something that hasn’t yet happened:

### **Romans 8:24**

<sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

- Hope can be more solid than just wishful thinking.

### **Hebrews 6:19–20**

<sup>19</sup>We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup>where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

- How is hope not only relevant to your life personally, but to the vision of Bethany?

**Big Idea: We should let Hope propel us forward.**

**1. Hope is a divine expectation that God is going to move.**

**“Our hope that God is going to move is not based on wishful thinking but on His character and promises as revealed in His word.”**

**Joel 2:28**

<sup>28</sup>“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

**Psalm 136:1–3**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup>Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever. <sup>3</sup>Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Romans 8:28**

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**Matthew 16:18**

<sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- What do these verses reveal about who God is and what we can hope for?
- Is our hope dependent on external circumstances or worldly standards of comfort or success?
- How should this divine expectation affect our attitudes, language, and behaviors?

**2. Hope leans forward.**

- When a professional sprinter is in the starting blocks or when a wide receiver accelerates off the line, in what stance or posture is his body?

**Hebrews 6:9–12**

<sup>9</sup>Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation. <sup>10</sup>For God is not unjust so as to overlook

your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. <sup>11</sup>And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- What do these verses tell us about the posture of Christian hope?

**“Hope is the antidote for sluggishness. It defies the inclination of a resting object to remain at rest. It propels forward motion.”**

- What would it mean for us to “lean forward” in hope?
- How does hope affect the clarity of Bethany’s vision?
- Take a moment to evaluate your life and any ministry you do. Are there things that cause sluggishness so you aren’t leaning forward or moving toward God’s Mission?

**“Church, we need to lean forward. We don’t want to be a recliner, but an ejection seat! We’re building a launch pad, not a crash pad! Hope leans forward.”**

### **3. Hope sustains.**

#### **Hebrews 6:19–20**

19We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

- How is hope like an anchor?
- Where is that anchor lodged?
- How can hope be both an anchor and a launch pad?

#### **Hebrews 6:11–12**

11 And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- How can hope sustain us through difficult seasons, personal disappointment, persecution, and external strife?
- Can you think of any stories in which hope sustained an individual?

## **Conclusion**

No matter what this world throws at us, we have an upward call of God in Christ. We have the hope of His return and the assurance of that hope enables us to persevere in God's mission. Take a few minutes to pray that we will be a hope-filled church that stays on mission for Jesus!