

## Prayer Quest – Lesson 6 – How to Pray for Others

“Hope is not what you’d expect; it is what you would never dream. It is a wild, improbable tale with a pinch-me-I’m dreaming ending... Hope is not a granted wish or a favor performed; no, it is far greater than that. It is a zany, unpredictable dependence on a God who loves to surprise us out of our socks and be there in the flesh to see our reaction.” Max Lucado, God Came Near p. 89

As I was contemplating what to teach tonight, I felt impressed by the Lord to study hope. When praying for loved ones, times come when hope seems to be lost. To continue, hope must return. Hope is what spurs us on to reach for our goals. Hope and faith. They go hand in hand. Hebrews 11:1 says “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We can hope because we have faith. It is faith that fuels our hope, so we can reach out for those things that seem so out of reach. If faith fuels our hope, God is its source and sustainer. Romans 15:13 states, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit empowers hope!

Romans 15:4 – For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of Scriptures we might have hope. NIV

Probably my favorite passages regarding hope can be found in the Old Testament. In the Hebrew language there are several different words translated as hope:

- 1) Tiqvah – hope, expectation, things hoped for, ground of hope, a cord or attachment.  
In Joshua 2:18, tiqvah is the scarlet cord that Rahab hangs from her window. The cord was her hope of salvation!
  - a) Psalm 62:5
  - b) Psalm 71:5
  - c) Jeremiah 29:
  - d) Jeremiah 31:17
  - e) Hosea 2:15
  - f) Job 11:18
  - g) Job 14:7
  
- 2) Kecel – confidence, hope, flank, loins, referring to firmness or stoutness
  - a) Psalm 78:7
  
- 3) Yachal – to wait, hope, expect, tarry
  - a) Psalm 71:14
  - b) Psalm 38:15

In many passages hope and wait can be interchanged. Hoping and waiting go hand in hand. If you are hoping, you are waiting. But the waiting and hoping aren't merely sitting back "hoping" something comes to pass. In fact, *tiqvah* comes from the Hebrew word *Qavah*, most often translated as wait. But *qavah* carries with it the concept of being bound together by twisting two cords together. This can give us a whole new concept of waiting. What are we binding ourselves to? God's Word, His character? As we wait upon the Lord, we are teaming with Him. This is how waiting on the Lord renews our strength. Not only is our strength renewed, but it is made even stronger by becoming bound to the Mighty One! Let's look at some more passages that challenge us to wait and hope, keeping this concept in mind.

- 1) Psalm 25:5
- 2) Psalm 27:14
- 3) Psalm 40:1
- 4) Psalm 130:5
- 5) Isaiah 25:9
- 6) Isaiah 40:31
- 7) Lamentations 3:25
- 8) Hosea 12:6

There is also the Hebrew word *Chuwl* translated as "wait patiently" in Psalm 37:7. But again, this is not just sitting and doing nothing. *Chuwl* also means to twist or whirl (much like twisting two cords together) or to dance, bear (as in childbirth), and travail. Have you ever watched a whale give birth? She will spin and twirl in the water during her contractions until the calf is born. The waiting and expectation of *chuwl* is as a mother giving birth. There is nothing complacent about that!!

Another Hebrew word for wait is *Shamar*. It is translated to keep, guard, observe, protect, to be a watchman, to beware. In Proverbs 8:34, it portrays attentiveness, waiting and watching. Truly hope and waiting are not passive verbs. They require us to be vigilant, expecting something to happen, and even partnering with the Lord in doing so. And when our strength fails, God comes along and strengthens us with His cords of love.

Romans 5:5 – "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Hope deferred may make a heart sick, but the love of God, poured out in our hearts, fuels our hope again and again. Surely, He does give us all we need for life and godliness. 2 Peter 1:3