

THE HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

Today is November 2, 2025. This chronicle was written by Walter de Lima Filho and is based on the last meditation – “The Hope That Does Not Disappoint” – delivered at the Hebrom Community in São Paulo.

Where Is Your Anchor?

Who has never felt like a boat adrift, swaying from side to side in the middle of a storm? We try to hold on to something. Life, with its turbulent waves, urges us to seek security in a bank account, job stability, perfect health, or even the promise of authorities who, as we know, are not always reliable.

But just look at the world around us. It is a scenario of uncertainties. Rejections of truth, moral and financial crises, violence exploding on the screen, unexpected clinical diagnoses. Faced with this, how does our soul react? Does it incline toward the Word of God to resist, or does it surrender to worldly philosophies that scoff at divine sovereignty?

The truth is that the "hopes" we place in things, situations, and people, as the text of Job reminds us, are like a spider's web: they seem firm, but at the slightest touch, they fall apart. They are anchors cast into quicksand. The central problem we face is this: we seek eternal hope in temporary sources.

The Divine Manual and Water in the Desert

Our text from Romans 15:4 points us to the right place. Paul says that the Scriptures were written to give us "hope" and "encouragement." The Eternal God, in His Grace, provides all the resources our soul needs to be revived and remain firm.

Think of hope as the fresh water for the traveler in the desert. He won't drill into a dry rock, trying to find a spring in it. He knows the water is elsewhere. For the Christian, a traveler in an arid world without spiritual life, the Word of God is his "inexhaustible source."

The primary source of hope is the Word. It is not a book of ancient stories, but the true "divine manual of life." It teaches us, corrects us, gives us wisdom and an inexplicable strength for a life full of hope. God's Grace is offered to all (Prevenient Grace), but it demands a response of faith: the desire to trust and be faithful to Him.

The study and meditation on the Scriptures are the means God uses to strengthen our capacity to choose faith, even in the face of fear that grips the throat. The psalmist teaches us:

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I put my hope in your promise.” (Psalm 119:114)

God offers Himself as a Refuge. The Word is the source. Our part is to choose and dedicate ourselves to that source to replenish hope, exercising our responsibility in this relationship with God.

If your hope is weakened, don't wait for the desire to read the Bible to suddenly arise. Discipline yourself. Feed on it daily and "ruminate" on what you have learned. Start with the Psalms or the Gospel of Mark. The Word has the power to transform us when we allow it to penetrate and do its work. This "life" and "power" are actions of divine Grace operating in us, but the individual needs to open their heart and mind (the exercise of their will) for it to enter.

Looking Up, We Will Live in the Now

The second source of hope is the reality of Eternity. The Scriptures affirm that in this world, we are like foreigners, we are just passing through. Our days on Earth are like a shadow; they pass quickly! Life here doesn't always make sense: pains, losses, and injustices that make us question. However, the hope of Heaven is not blind optimism, but a supernatural certainty that God will do justice, wipe away every tear, and give rest to all who persevered in Him.

Paul invites us to a continuous action of our will:

"You have been raised with Christ. Therefore, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." (Colossians 3:1,2)

The Christian, after regeneration, is invited to "look up." Hope requires an intentional effort to focus the mind on the biblical principles that lead to Eternity.

Heaven should be the filter through which you evaluate your attitudes and decisions. If your priority is only to accumulate earthly goods, pleasures, or achievements, you are diminishing your source of hope. Invest in eternity! This vision will keep you in friendship with God (at peace with Him and receiving His Shalom). Then, strengthened by Him, you will build the courage to fight against the temptations and challenges of this life.

Embrace the Certainty!

The hope that does not disappoint is not a "maybe," but the certainty that our God, who is Faithful in all His words and actions, will fulfill all His promises, both here and in eternity.

Find it in the Word: Read it and "ruminate" on it. It is the fresh water that nourishes our soul and gives us encouragement.

Keep Your Focus on Heaven: Use the hope of eternity to give weight, meaning, and criteria to your daily feelings, thoughts, and actions.

God's invitation is clear: He offers us Grace, the Word, His presence, and Heaven. Our part and responsibility is to choose this hope and patiently endure. May the God of all consolation and hope fill our hearts with His peace, so that we may overflow in joy and hope, under the power of the Holy Spirit and His Word.

Let us pray:

"Lord God, Father of all hope,

I recognize that I have often placed my anchor in things that pass away: in money, in perfect health, or in the opinion of people. Forgive me for seeking security where it does not exist.

I thank You for Your Word, which is the source of fresh water and the sure map for my soul. I thank You for the promise of Heaven, which gives me an eternal purpose and teaches me to look beyond today's storms.

At this moment, by Your Grace, I choose the hope that does not disappoint. Help me to be persistent and to discipline my mind to meditate on Your Scriptures daily. Strengthen my free will so that, even in the face of fear, I may choose the faith and obedience that connect me to You and Your power. Fill my heart with Your peace and the certainty of eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen."

May you and your whole family have a week under the mighty hand of God, so that, through Jesus, you may be blessed and successful in everything. Your brother and friend in Christ, Walter.