

# Got Proof # 9

## The Answer People Need to Hear: Hope

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Part of Connect Group Questions

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This week's teaching explored what people truly are looking for – someone with a reason for HOPE in a difficult and uncertain world. Christians have a unique opportunity – especially when they are encountering life's tough stretches or when unfairly treated though doing what is right – to answer a “Why do you have hope?” question with compelling clarity. **Let's explore how to be prepared to speak clearly about our hope.**

### GETTING STARTED

Let's start positively – **recall a time in your life when you were MOST hopeful!** When was that, and what was encouraging you to be so upbeat? Share your story.

Next...we know that *life can get very real*. So, what are some of the common “hope thieves” in life, things that diminish a hopeful or positive outlook? Talk about the “thieves” you've encountered, or in the lives of people you know.

Finally, when the darker clouds roll in upon life, how important is it for you to “share your tough stuff” with someone else? Why is this so crucial?

### IN THE WORD

How might the following passages contribute to your response to the question “Why do you have hope?” Look these up and state how they could contribute to your answer (perhaps have each person take a passage and complete the sentence):

**Psalm 33:18-22** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 43** I can have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 23:13-27** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_  
(cf **1 Corinthians 15:16-23**)

**John 14:1-6** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:11-14** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:15-22** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thess 4:13-18** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 3:1-3** I have hope because \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* OK...which one really resonated with **you!**

## **MY LIFE - OUR MISSION**

Pastor David Staff's recent Silver Trumpet's blog, "Are You Eager for Heaven?" is worth reading. Here's the link - <http://www.ccames.org/silver-trumpets-blog/are-you-eager-for-heaven/>  
In it he quotes Paul's word to the Philippian church, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to Himself" (**Philippians 3:20-21**).

What in these verses makes your heart race a bit faster? All the more reason for us to consider our 6th Life Question: *How are my (eternal) investments doing?* Take a moment for a quick personal review - how specifically are you these days investing in eternity? Jot down what those investments are.

In our HOPE, let's "live the mission" of CONNECTING PEOPLE TO LIFE-DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS IN CHRIST. Be ready to kindly, gently explain to others your hope (**1 Peter 3:15**).