



As we journey together through this pandemic, the word **HOPE** zooms big in our minds and hearts. The impact of Covid19 on individuals, families, businesses, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, students, teachers, etc. has changed our **lifestyle completely**. Our concerns are fueled by weeks of consistent messaging about **critical shortages, rising death tolls and despair**.

Now is the time to immerse ourselves in the gift of **HOPE**. And what is this gift? HOPE is a feeling of **expectation** and **desire** for a certain thing to happen. **Bible hope** is the **confident** expectation of what God has promised He **will** do. It is a belief in His faithfulness

Hope can help make a **tough present situation** (pandemic) more **bearable** and eventually improve our lives because **envisioning** a better future **motivates** us to take the steps to make it happen, like wearing our masks and keeping our distance. We need to pray for

those who still don't get it!

At a time when fear and sorrow has brought our world together unlike ever before, **hope** can be too. We need to draw on the single-minded belief that we are all in this together – and **together**, with God's help, we can see this through.

By **envisioning** what we **hope** will happen, **whether it does or not**, it can make us **feel better**. And if it's something we can somewhat control, hope can motivate us to take whatever steps we need to take. (Again, masks and distancing.) For **cancer patients** or those in a lot of **pain** or **distressing situations**, believing that **tomorrow will be better** can help get them through today. Is there some area in your life where you need to do this?

Hope involves **waiting**. We wait **actively**...working, and searching, yet we also wait **passively** for the right time to come, for growth to take its course, and to receive a **gift** that cannot be ours by **effort alone**

Gardening symbolically expresses this **partnership in hope**. We **sow** seeds and **nurture** them as they grow, but the growth itself is a work of wonder. **Identify a hope** that you sense God has planted within you. It might have to do with your own life and growth or about others whom you care about. Then, wait **actively** and **passively to be gifted!**

So, how are you doing with: quiet moments? smiles? affirmations? joyfulness? Are you remembering to make them a part of your day?