

## Hope Has No Ifs

Hope keeps us going. Positive expectations pull us forward. On a day-to-day basis, where life is mostly lived, these expectations are often tied to circumstances. Our satisfaction has an “if”:

- If I had the day off tomorrow...
- If I could sleep late in the morning...
- If I had a week’s vacation...
- If a big raise would come through...
- If I could get out of this job into a new career...

We tend to hinge our happiness on developments that are both out of our reach and doomed to disappoint when they arrive. Time off work proves to be a mixture of joy and turmoil, like the rest of life. That big raise evaporates into the family budget. The new career eventually becomes just another job.

We place our hopes on things that are too temporary to meet our true needs and too shallow to touch the root of our discontent. Our lives are thus driven by misdirected hopes and dragged down by restlessness and frustration.

But we don’t have to let circumstances define our joy or fruitfulness. Recall your personal encounters with God—when you first trusted Him for salvation, and when you’ve trusted Him since on matters big or small. Sensing His reality and His presence, you tasted a satisfaction and a settled rest that are more constant than temporary situations. They grow from a hope that is deep and unchanging.

We all experience a certain restlessness in life. We find ourselves reaching for more, whether that “more” be new purchases, physical pleasure, or personal achievement. But bring your restlessness to God. Direct your restless seeking toward Him, making Psalm 62 your testimony:

*My soul finds rest in God alone...  
My hope comes from him...  
Trust in him at all times...  
Though your riches increase,  
do not set your heart on them.* (Psalm 62:1, 5, 8, 10, NIV)

When God becomes the focus of our seeking, our satisfaction is no longer an “if”. All His promises, all His love ever wanted for us, all He is, has come to us in Jesus Christ. As we look to Him and trust Him, He becomes our happiness and our hope. Only Jesus Christ brings rich and satisfying contentment.

Hymn: [We Lift the Light of Hope](#)