

10 Tips to bring HOPE into your holidays!

1. Let it go!---whatever is keeping you in a place of despair, grief, depression or anger, lay it at the Father's feet and trust Him with it. Psalm 37:5 NIV, Psalm 10:17 NLT, Jeremiah 17:7-8 NKJV, Psalm 39:7 Jubilee Bible 2000, (Days 1-3 of "Extraordinary Hope")
2. Focus on the now---what's right in front of you---be in the moment. God's got the future, He just needs you to be present in the now. Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV, Romans 12:12 GNT, Psalm 119:114 NKJV, Psalm 39:7 NIV, (Days 4-6 of "Extraordinary Hope")
3. Have an attitude of gratitude. Be thankful for all that you have, including the most basic things that we take for granted everyday. The air that we breathe, a place to sleep, food in your belly, God's lavish love and provision. He is the source of all your supply. Psalm 100:4 NIV, Psalm 65:5 ESV, Romans 15:13 ESV, Psalm 31:24 NKJV, (Days 7-9 of "Extraordinary Hope")
4. Give, give of yourself to others, thinking of them more than yourself. Give them a smile, a helping hand, etc. Just bless them with your presence. Helping others removes the focus off of ourselves and allows God to take care of our needs. John 15:13 NKJV, Psalm 38:15 NKJV, Psalm 33:18 ESV, Psalm 33:20 NIV (Days 10-12 of "Extraordinary Hope")
5. Sing. I believe we were made to sing. How good you are is not what matters. Singing and listening to music changes our focus as well as the atmosphere around us, literally as sound waves penetrate the air. Change your atmosphere and make it full of joy. Psalm 147:11 ESV, Proverbs 10:28 KJV, 1 Timothy 6:17 The Voice (Days 13-15 of "Extraordinary Hope")
6. Make the most of your time. If you have lost someone or something, be intentional about focusing on the good, good memories and good times. We must use what time we have to show others there is hope beyond this life. James 4:14 KJV, Lamentations 3:25 NIV, Proverbs 23:18 ESV, Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV (Days 16-18 of "Extraordinary Hope")
7. Try something new. Whether its cooking, crafting, or playing a new sport, learning new things helps us have something to look forward to with excitement and hope. The joy and fun new activities generate fills our hope tank. Hebrews 6:19 NIV, Psalm 62:5 NIV, 1 John 3:3 NASB (Days 19-21 of "Extraordinary Hope")
8. Deepen your quiet time with Jesus, who is the anchor of your soul. When you feel you are drifting on the sea of loneliness or despair, dig into the Bible to strengthen your anchor hold of hope. Speaking the Word over yourself uses two senses to help it penetrate to your soul. Psalm 42:5, 11, 43:5 NKJV, Hebrews 11:1 NIV, Romans 5:5 NIV (Days 22-24 of "Extraordinary Hope")

9. Breathe in His presence. Take time to be still and allow God to come in and be with you. He longs to tell you secrets about Himself and the plans He has for you. He is Hope and He will fill you up when you seek His presence. Psalm 16:11 ESV, 2 Corinthians 3:12 NIV, 1 Peter 1:13 NIV, Job 11:18 GNT (Days 25-27 of “Extraordinary Hope”)
10. Remember this is just a season. A season of your life. It doesn’t define it, it just enriches the whole. What can you gain from this time that will make you a better person? What do you need to leave behind? These are the questions you need to ask yourself to help you move forward for the rest of the journey. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NIV, Psalm 130:5 ESV, Isaiah 40:31 NIV, 1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV (Days 28-30 of “Extraordinary Hope”)