

Always Hope!
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Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. (Hosea 14:9 ESV)

With God there is always hope. Hosea's words are filled with warnings of punishment for God's people for their rebellion and evil ways. Hosea ends his message with a word of hope in God. Hosea calls us to be wise in God's ways and construct something that has a future.

No matter how badly we've messed up, 'prodigal' sons & daughters can always return and find a loving Heavenly Father who is running to meet them. Your patience runs out, but not your Father's patience! Yet, the time is short. Hosea pleads to God and warns the people that if they keep on with their ways, destruction awaits them.

When God allows the consequences of our actions, He is punishing us because He loves His children. It takes God's understanding and wisdom to know these things. Our human understanding gets us more of what we see and experience every day. Our hope is a person. Our hope is Jesus. Every other hope is finite and shaky, at best. Human hope is grounded in us and gives no hope for the future, because everything we have wears out, gets old, and doesn't last. By faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we have Hope that works, always. Jesus is the same and His Words last forever!

Jesus gives us Hope because through His death our sins are all forgiven. Jesus suffered the eternal consequences of our sin and died in our place to cancel the debt for our sins. While we suffer consequences for our actions on this earth, the eternal punishment was paid in full through Christ's life, death and resurrection. Jesus is our Hope, always!

Dear God, our Source of Hope! Give us understanding to know and trust Your ways. When we stray, bring us back to Your Truth. Protect us from Satan's temptations to question Your wisdom and ways. Thank You for loving us enough to discipline us back into Your Truth. Give us grateful hearts to praise You for Your love in sending Jesus as our Savior, for the forgiveness of our sins. Give us Hope. In Jesus name. Amen.