

Hopelessness. What do we do in times when we feel there is no hope?

I can remember being in college. And in my final semester, I was a full-time student, taking 16 hours' worth of classes and working a full-time job. Life was stressful. And late in the semester, while looking over grades, I noticed that I had missed a somewhat big paper. I wanted to talk with my professor about it. And I planned on giving this long speech about how much I was having to work, both in school and at a job. I thought for sure that no matter what I said, I was going to have to take a zero for the assignment.

Now, in the grand scheme of life, one failed assignment doesn't seem like it's worth getting worked up about.

But what do we do when in those moments that do matter? Moments like we're facing now.

In the opening verses of the book of James, he reminds his fellow Christians that trials are a part of life.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

James 1:2a [NIV]

It's easy to feel hopeless in times of trials, but it's important to remember that Christianity does not always equal good times. And it doesn't make us any less faithful or bad Christians when we experience trying times.

Trials and difficult moments are going to appear in our lives, but, in times of hopelessness, we can't allow ourselves to disconnect from God and His promises.

*“I have called you back from the ends of the earth,
saying, ‘You are my servant.’
For I have chosen you
and will not throw you away.
Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”*

Isaiah 41:9-10 [NLT]

During this trial that we are currently facing, may we trust in God and seek all wisdom, truth, and comfort from Him.

Things to think about:

- What are things that you can do this week to focus on your relationship with God?
- What are things you can do this week to help strengthen your trust in God?
- What can you do for those around you to help remind them to trust in God's promises in difficult moments?