



How to Pray for... **HOPE IN GOD**

Hopelessness has long plagued those experiencing poverty all over the world. In fact, when people in poverty are asked what it means to be poor, they talk most about shame and hopelessness—not lack of money.

Lack of hope is one of the greatest barriers to change. If you don't believe it's possible to have a different life, why try? For instance, the greatest barrier to education in the Majority World is not lack of school supplies, but parents' belief that there is no real hope for their child's future. Why spend the energy and resources to send a child to school if they're destined to be a poor farmer anyway? For that matter, why try new farming methods if the fate of your crops is already decided? Some have been disappointed in the past—too many wells are sitting broken and unusable, too many projects have been left unfinished by well-meaning outsiders. They've learned not to hope in the promises of NGOs or government.

The Bible tells us that God is to be our source of hope. No matter the circumstances, we can hope in God. He never forsakes us. He is able to bring change. When people trapped in poverty gain hope that God might help them change their circumstances, they begin to look for solutions to problems they have lived with for generations.

Please join us in praying...

- Pray that hope will overcome the fear and despair that many feel when facing trouble. Pray that God would soften many hearts to the gospel and help people to recognize their spiritual hunger.
- Many Christians have only been taught to hope that when they die they will go to heaven. Pray that they will have opportunities to know the truth—that Jesus offers abundant life both now and forever, that God's will is not for anyone to live in poverty and desperation. Pray that this new hope would strengthen them to bring every area of life under the lordship of Christ.
- Pray that churches around the world will be beacons of hope—that they will both share messages of hope and do Acts of Love that restore hope.
- Pray for churches and communities who are trying new things and working hard to change—that they would have renewed hope and endurance to keep them motivated when things are difficult.

*He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:29-31



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