

GOD OF HOPE
Rom. 15:13, Ps. 42:11

REFUGE Ps. 142:5

Regenerate ^ Redeem ^ Renew ^ Revive ^ Recreate ^ Restore



"Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith." Heb. 12:2

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth that He might show Himself strong in behalf of those whose heart is completely His." 2 Chron 16:9

"They looked unto Him and were radiant and their faces shall never be ashamed." Ps 34:5



Prayer: Ps. 143

Hopelessness went out with the Resurrection!

"I am powerless... and I don't know what to do, but my eyes are on Thee." 2 Chron 20:12

Ps. 141:8

"To despair is to turn your back on God." See Eph. 2:12

WHO'S WHO?
2 Cor. 13:10

Jer. 6:16

Ecc. 5:2

- Ps. 18:6
- Ps 57:1,2
- Powerless
- Helpless
- clueless

Degenerate v Depress v Decline v Defeat v Destroy v Devour



god of hopelessness
2 Cor. 4:4

Job 22:23,26-29

DESPAIR

Ps. 53:4
Jer. 7:24

"Your enemy, the Devil, prowls about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Pet 5:8

Re-De Road

Therefore I write these things...which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction (2 Cor. 13:10, KJV).

...Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God (Ps. 42:11, KJV).

The god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor. 4:4, KJV).

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls (Jer. 6:16, NIV).

Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few (Ecc. 5:2, KJV).

In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears (Ps. 18:6, KJV).

Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me. For my soul takes refuge in Thee; And in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge, Until destruction passes by. I will cry to God Most High, To God who accomplishes all things for me (Ps. 57:1, 2, NASB).

But mine eyes are unto thee, O God, the Lord; in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute (Ps. 141:8, KJV).

If you return to the Almighty; you will be restored...Lift up your face to God...You will pray to Him, and He will heal you...Light will shine on your ways...the humble person he will save (Job 22:23; 26-29, NASB).

They have not called upon God (Ps. 53:4, KJV).

But they harkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward (Jer. 7:24, KJV).

GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

RE-DE ROAD

REFLECTING GRACE: Determining Source of Emotions; Hope vs. Hopelessness; Christ Our Refuge; Rest and Reflect

Determining Source of Emotions

Two contractors were evaluating an empty abandoned old house, which was quite elaborate in its day. Through the years, however, it fell into disrepair. One contractor remarked, “This house has real potential. We could repair it, remodel it, and refurbish it. It would be a great enhancement to the neighborhood.” The other contractor looked at it and said, “Oh no, we need to demolish it, there is no hope for it! We need to get rid of it.” And the first one said, “No, no, this has potential. We just need to renew it, and revive it, give it a face lift, and it will be ready to go again.” The other one countered, “No, it is not worth it, demolish it, get rid of it, it is hopeless—worthless!”

In a sense, that is how God and Satan look at us. God is always saying, “Wow, this is great. We can repair, renew, revive, rekindle and remodel.” And Satan counters, “Why bother, just destroy and demolish it; it is worthless!”

‘**Re**’ and ‘**De**’ are prefixes. God is into the ‘**re**’ in our life, and Satan is into the ‘**de**’ in our life. ‘**De**’ means to go down or away from, going back. ‘**Re**’ means to go back to the original or former state, to do again.

How can we determine in our life what is really happening? Where is the source of our emotions, and where is our **deb**ilitation coming from so that we may be **re**habilitated? Remember that Satan is the ‘**de**ceiver;’ he is out to **de**-lude, **de**-ceive and **de**-file mankind.

Note the road going upwards—God is into **re**viving, **re**newing, **re**kindling and **re**storing His beloved. The Apostle Paul understood this, “*Therefore I write these things...according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to **de**struction*” (2 Cor. 13:10). Edify means ‘to build up’ or ‘to **re**-build.’ This is where we get our word edifice (building). It is to edification, building up or **re**building in a life—not to **de**struction.

Hope vs. Hopelessness

On the visual, note the person at the crossroads. Jeremiah 6:16 says, “*Stand at the crossroads, (so here are the crossroads in his life) and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find ‘**r-e-s-t**’ for your souls.*”

Learn to determine **Who’s Who?** in your life instead of blaming everything on God. “Lord, why am I so **de**pressed, why am I so **de**feated, why am I so **de**ceived, and why do you allow this in my life?” God answers, “Hey, look again, I am into the **re**-doing of everything, I am not into **de**stroying.”

On the road going down we have the words **de**-generate, **de**-press, **de**-cline, **de**-feat, **de**-stroy, **de**-vour. The keeper of this road is the ‘**de**-vil,’ “*Your enemy the ‘**d-e-v-i-l**’ prowls about like a roaring lion looking for someone to **de**vour*” (1 Pet. 5:8). He is also the lower case ‘g,’— ‘god of hopelessness.’ “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the*

minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Cor. 4:4).

The God of Hope (top left of visual), *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13). “Hope thou in God, for yet shall I praise Him, who is the health of my countenance” (Ps. 42:11).*

You will see that the countenance on these figures on the “**Re**-road” is sparkling or radiating, because the countenance of people who are walking with God and focusing on Jesus does make a difference. *“They looked unto Him and were radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed” (Ps. 34:5). “Looking away to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).*

We reflect the attitude of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, etc.—all the nine graces that, by His Spirit, can radiate through us.

Enter—Doubt:

One of the first things that happens along this route is that DOUBT comes in. It all began in the garden. Satan said something like this to Eve, “Did God say...?” Ever since then, Satan has continued to raise doubts, saying something like, “Is God on your side? Is God caring for you? Is He withholding from you? Is He protecting you?” If we succumb to his suggestions, we may start to shake our fist at God and have a controversy with Him. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 5:2, *“Be not rash with your mouth, nor let thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God, for God is in Heaven, you are on earth, therefore, let your words be few.”* Solomon was putting people in their place—just remember who you are. God is still in Heaven, and He is sovereign! However, when we hold onto the attitude of “Why God?” and shake our fist, we are walking right into the enemy’s territory thinking this is God doing it to us. We need to discern what is really happening—Who’s Who?

We will call it the ‘down draft of doubt.’ When doubt comes in, our praise stops (no praise); and then our thanks stops (no thanks). Then in Romans 1, vain thoughts come in, our heart becomes darker, our spirit becomes prouder, more foolish, and we end up in idolatry. This is the ‘down draft of doubt’—going away from what we know to be true—God’s truth!

A couple in ministry fell into **despair** and **despondency** when they let a doubt come in and stay awhile. After they were **restored** their comment was, “they feared nothing so much as doubt of His protective care.”

Spurgeon had said, “All things are possible with God, He can reverse the direction of your desires and the current of your life, and instead of going downward from God, it can make your whole being tend upward toward God. *‘A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh’ (Ezek. 36:26).* There is only one step between true hope and hopelessness, it all depends upon the source of hope. Only God and His Word are completely dependable foundations of hope.”

U-Turns allowed!

However, along this route there is always the **re**-routing—hope again—U-Turns allowed! Look at this figure sprawled along the highway of life; there is still an opportunity to **return**.

Job says, “If you **return to the Almighty**, you will be **restored**” (Job 22:23) “...Lift up your face to God, and you will pray to Him and He will hear you, ...and light will shine on your ways, ...the humble person He will save” (Job 22:26-29).

But some people still do not **respond**, and they fall into **despair**. “They did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward” (Jer. 7:24).

“**To despair is to turn your back on God.**” (from *Anne of Green Gables*) If you turn your back on God, the road ahead is wrought with **despair**. The letters in ‘**despair**,’ if you scramble them have the same letters as the word, ‘**praised**.’ **Despair** can be turned to **praised**!

Christ Our Refuge

There is still a way back (see the center of the card). But there are some qualifications for getting back. See if you can qualify with any of these: **POWERLESS, HELPLESS, CLUELESS!** Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:12, saw the great multitude that was before him, and went to God and said, “We are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do [clueless], but our eyes are on Thee.”

This is how we qualify instead of trying to qualify in some intelligent, analytical scenario that we ourselves invent. Just come helpless, powerless and clueless. Here is the pivotal point, “Our eyes are on Thee.” As we focus on the Lord, we find that, “the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth that He might show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is completely His” (2 Chron. 16:9). A double search is going on, we are searching for Him, and He is searching for us. It is meeting eye to eye with God—seeing eye to eye with God.

When that happens, notice this, **Re-surrection**. “**Hopelessness** went out with the **resurrection**.” This is where God’s grace shines. First Peter 1:3, “Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy (or grace) has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.” We have a way out of **defeat** in our lives—otherwise there would be no hope for the **de-lapidated** buildings that we live in.

“**Resurrection power works best in the cemetery.**” (Ray Stedman) So when things seem the bleakest, God’s resurrection power comes through for us!

Psalms 142:5 says, “I cry unto You, O Lord, I say You are my **refuge**, my portion in the land of the living.” So here is the **refuge**. Look to the Lord; He is our refuge. Now, is ‘**re**’ a prefix for refuge? Is ‘fuge’ a word? Well, actually it is part of a word, ‘fugitive,’ a runaway. This is the place to run and hide—a **refuge**. We run to the Lord; He is our hiding place. The Lord loves those who come to Him with a contrite heart (Ps. 51:17 and Ps. 34:18).

Psalm 18:6 says, “I cried unto the Lord in my distress, He heard my voice out of His temple, my cry came before Him even into His ears.”

The late Francis L. Patton, godly and able president of Princeton Seminary in the early 1900’s stated, “The only hope of Christianity is the **re-habilitating** of the Pauline theology. It is back, back, back to an incarnate Christ or it is on, on, into atheism and **despair**.” His call was to go back to Paul’s edifications written for us in his epistles.

Rest and Reflect

Now follow the 'Re' road across the top of the card:

"Reflected peace is the proof that you are right with God." (*Oswald Chambers*)

When we have His rest, we **reflect** Him in our countenance and others are drawn to Him. We display His **Reflecting Grace!** *"They looked unto Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed"* (Ps. 34:5). *"But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but **reflect** like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured in ever-increasing splendor into His own image, and the transformation comes from the Lord who is the Spirit"* (2 Cor. 3:18 Phillips).

The countenance of God is a symbol of divine presence, favor and guidance. *"They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance"* (Ps. 89:15). *"The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace"* (Num. 6:26).

"Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 4:5).

TELL HIS STORY! REFLECT HIS GLORY!

Concluding Thoughts

We not only have the '**Re**' road, but the 'hope' road. We not only have a '**De**' road, but a 'hopelessness' road. All we have to do to qualify for restoration is to come in our powerlessness, our helplessness, and cluelessness for God to totally **re**-route us from our **detours** in life.

*"But mine eyes are unto Thee, O God, the Lord, in Thee is my trust, leave not my soul **destitute**"* (Ps. 141:8).

*"The eternal God is thy **refuge**, and underneath are the everlasting arms, and He shall thrust out thy enemy from before thee and shall say, '**destroy them**'"* (Deut. 33:27).

God is always the answer. **Return** to Him as quickly as possible. The Lord is faithful, even when we are not. Our hope is in Him, the great **restorer** through GRACE.

Marvelous Grace of our Loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was
spilt.

Sin and **despair** like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
GRACE that is greater, yes, grace
untold,
Points to the **Refuge**, the mighty Cross

Grace, grace, God's grace,
GRACE that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
GRACE that is greater than all our sin.

(Julia H. Johnston)

PRAYER: Lord we are very grateful for Your marvelous GRACE. Thank You for Your **restoring**, **renewing**, **rekindling**, **reviving** grace. Thank You for coming to **destroy** the works of the **devil** so that we can be free. We have hope in You which put an end to our hopelessness. Thank You for Your **resurrection** power. Draw those in **despair** to Yourself and hold them close to Your Shepherding Heart. **Return** the lost sheep and the cast sheep to Yourself so You can **restore** and **revive** them once again. Thank You, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.



HOPE

Think Hope;
Talk about Hope,
Give Hope wherever we can!

G. MacDonald

There is only one step between true hope and hopelessness. All depends upon the source of the hope. ONLY GOD AND HIS WORD are completely dependable foundations of HOPE.

*Call upon ME in the day of trouble.
I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.
Psalm 50:15*

God, Our Refuge

“For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You” (2 Chronicles 20:12)

The king of Israel surveyed the enemy troops. He turned and looked at his own miserable army. “We are hopeless,” he thought. The king gathered his people at the temple where they worshipped God. He did not preach a sermon or deliver a pep talk. Instead, he told God about their problem. The king admitted Israel could not win this battle. The enemy surrounded them. They had no place to go except to God. He became their refuge.

What enemies do you face today? Sicknes? Poverty? Rejection? One of our enemies, the devil, seeks to discourage us, but God desires to renew us. Depression and despair overtake us if we focus on our problems. But, when we keep our eyes on God through reading the Bible and meeting with other Christians, He restores our hope. As we run into His arms, they surround us as a fortress. Confide in God; He rescues us in ways we could not imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

The king led his army to battle the next day and discovered that the enemy troops had killed each other. Because Israel found refuge in Him, God fought for them. As you take refuge in Him the Lord will give you strength to face your enemy.

Linda Wever

He will Fight for Us

...with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles (2 Chronicles 32:8).

The citizens of Feldkirch, Austria, didn't know what to do. Napoleon's massive army was preparing to attack. Soldiers had been spotted on the heights above the little town, which was situated on the Austrian border.

A council of citizens was hastily summoned to decide whether they should try to defend themselves or display the white flag of surrender. It happened to be Easter Sunday, and the people had gathered in the local church.

The pastor rose and said, “Friends, we have been counting on our own strength, and apparently that has failed. As this is the day of our Lord's resurrection, let us just ring the bells, have our services as usual, and leave the matter in His hands. We know only our weakness, and not the power of God to defend us.”

The council accepted his plan and the church bells rang. The enemy, hearing the sudden peal, concluded that the Austrian army had arrived during the night to defend the town. Before the service ended, the enemy broke camp and left.

H. G. Bosch

Downdraft of Doubt

“Fear nothing so much as doubt
of His protective care.”
“Find the hopeless and tell
them re-building is possible”

George MacDonald



**I am in myself incapable of standing
a single hour without continual fresh
supplies of grace from the fountain head.**

John Newton



Hope is the last emotion to go before insanity!

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord

Sin and despair like the sea waves cold,
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Julia H. Johnston

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:2



"The devil influences us more than we give him credit for."

J. F. Walvoord

"All things are possible with God. He can reverse the direction of your desires and the current of your life; and instead of going downward from God, He can make your whole being tend upward toward God... 'A new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.'" (Ezekiel 36:26).

Spurgeon

GLORY OF GOD

NO PRAISE
NO THANKS
VAIN THOUGHT
DARK HEART
RABID SPIRIT
FOOLISHNESS
IDOLATRY

ROMANS 1

J. Ronald Blue

"The only hope of Christianity is in the rehabilitating of the Pauline theology. It is back, back, back, to an incarnate Christ and the atoning blood, or it is on, on, on, to atheism and despair."

(the late Francis L. Patton, godly and able president of Princeton University.)

W. R. Newell Romans

Despair could not exist if we Praised God.

Notice both words contain the same letters!



DESPAIR IS ANGER WITH NO PLACE ELSE TO GO!