

The Fruit of Hope: Boldness

2 Cor 3:1-12 (v.12)

Introduction:

Christian Hope – is divinely powered by the Holy Spirit and it produces joy, love, boldness, and endurance in the life of all true believers.

I. The 4 Fruits of Hope

- a. Hope bears the fruit of – Joy Rom 12:12a
- b. Hope bears the fruit of – Love Col 1:3-8
- c. Hope bears the fruit of – Boldness 2 Cor 3:12**
- d. And Hope bears the fruit of – Endurance

II. Old Testament Promises Background

- a. God will make a New Covenant Jer 31:31-33
- b. God will give you a new heart Ezek 36:26-27

III. Writing the Law on Hearts vs. 1-3

- a. Paul sees this as the fulfillment of the new covenant promises
- b. God is writing on the law on the hearts of believers under Paul's ministry.

IV. The Letter versus the Spirit vs. 4-6

- a. Paul is not merely passing on written laws or traditions like the Scribes and Pharisees
- b. He is preaching Christ and the power of the Spirit and the result is New Life

V. The Old Covenant versus the New Covenant vs. 7-11

- a. Old Covenant brought Condemnation v.9
- b. The New Covenant brought Life

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VI. The Meaning of Hope and Boldness v.12

- a. It is the HOPE of the New Covenant Promise
- b. Paul's Hope**
 - i. Is that God has now started to fulfill His ancient promise
 - ii. To take out the heart of stone and to write His law on soft hearts of flesh Jer 31:33 / Ezek 36:27
 - iii. It is the hope of a victorious Gospel – the good news that God the Father chose His people,
 - iv. God the Son died for their sins,
 - v. and God the Holy Spirit will bring them to faith and write God's law on their hearts.
- c. Paul's Boldness**
 - i. Is the courage of fearlessness 1 Thess 2:2
 - ii. Is the courage of being unashamed about the Gospel Phil 1:20
 - iii. Is direct, open, frank, straightforward, plain speech concerning the things of God John 10:24c