

## God is hope

I am not getting all political or anything, but I have been amazed at how hope is being used in this country to describe a person and his ability to inspire...which on a certain level is OK. I want a leader to inspire and offer hope. The object of my hope though is in something far different.

*We like many of you are dealing with the economic crisis hitting our country. I can feel anxiety and stress as I look at both our near and extended future.*

"Are we really making a difference?"

"God, can we trust you with our needs?" are questions I find myself asking.

I lead a men's Bible study at our church...and we are studying Romans. I've been chewing on Romans 4:18, where Abraham is described as, "In hope against hope he believed..." In spite of an old wrinkly body, in spite of wandering and uncertainty, Abraham had hope. He exuded hope. **His choices proved that he was certain that God was God and would do what He said he would do.**

I often don't live like that though. I can find it hard to believe. I don't have the same promise of Abraham...to be a father of many nations. But, I do have Hebrews 13:5 which is quoting a section from Deuteronomy 31:6-8. *To be strong and courageous, because God will never leave or desert us.*



Wendy and Carter look great!

He won't forsake us. He won't hose us.

I find that I can live like I believe He will hose me, so I live trying to 'make it all work out' on my own. Live in my own strength.

I can also live like Him not leaving me isn't good enough and try to find life in other things. Lesser things.

I find myself wrestling with my hope-meter. It's a fickle thing. If I believe and hope in other things [mainly the idea that if I just read my Bible more, go to church more, pray more...life will 'just work out' or I'll have a 'nice' life...nice wife, nice job, nice kids], I am lost.

When I take God at His word, that he will not hose me, abandon or desert me...when my confidence is in Him and I choose to live with hope, I can make it through my current circumstances no matter what they bring.

God is jealous for me and will allow circumstances to get my attention, to take away barriers between us. It makes me so thankful for His love. That He would pursue me like this.

***Please know that we pray for you and are thankful for you all. Please let us know if you have specific requests or needs. Our general prayer is that you will be strengthened and satisfied in Christ, and that He would continue to meet all of your needs.***

## Random stuff

--An update about Wendy...the results took longer than we had anticipated, but her MRI didn't show anything. On one hand, that's fantastic! On the other, it's frustrating. The doctor mentioned that we could do some other tests but let us know that it might just be stress and to monitor any other symptoms. So, ultimately we don't know what is happening. Thanks so much for your prayers!

-- Please pray for our students both at SDSU and UCSD. We've challenged them to join in more of the campus activities as a way to meet people and be in people's lives. Rather than just create our own 'outreaches' and hope that people come to them, we've asked them to see what other groups on the campuses are doing and go to those things [Go Karts, snow day, service projects, etc.] We are excited to see that God is already working in this. We have a new girl from UCSD coming to our group through relationships she started with our students at a campus activity. She doesn't identify herself as knowing Jesus yet, but is excited to have friends 'who just seem different and real.'

*In His grip,*

*Kyle, Wendy, Malia, Carter & Avery*