

## Is Hope Unrealistic and a Made up Feeling, or Logical?

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Hope typically brings light to a circumstance and looks at the glass as half full. For example, when you have a moment of sadness or someone you care about gets hurt, you would hope that you or they would get better. Although hope can be said or used negatively, the general feeling of hope, most would say, is positive. I tend to believe that hope is a rational and logical feeling. Like Frances Bacon came up with the scientific method, hope is just as rational. Hope can actually relate to some rational steps like in the scientific method. In the midst of a tough time, you could evaluate the circumstance, look at options and alternative courses, and then choose the one that seems positive and hopeful. For example, if your friend was in the hospital and theoretically had a 10% chance of dying and a 90% chance of living, you could choose to look at the circumstance with no hope and see sadness and death, or you could look at it with a hopeful attitude because you choose to remain hopeful because scientifically there is no need to worry. This can remain true in many different circumstances. No matter the circumstances or even the science, there is always room for hope. Science can assist in providing you more comforting and reassuring hope, but you can still find hope in any circumstance.

The French philosopher, Voltaire, was seen as a person who had a tendency to pick apart, or criticize many different parts of the church. There are people today who are similar to Voltaire who look to the negative and pick out the parts they don't like about something or a circumstance. I think that even if you see all the shortcomings all the time, there is still hope but you don't notice it. It all depends on your perspective and the way you look at things. You can be like Voltaire and criticize, or look for hope. When you look for the hope

that comes from God, you look at life with a glass half full and you won't be caught up in all of the worries of life.

I think that having faith in God also provides a person with more hope. Since God is one that heals, brings restoration, and is a provider, people of faith often look to Him for help which inspires hope. There isn't a circumstance or future that God is not a part of and that generally gives a person a more positive outlook on life. Also knowing that our time here on Earth is temporary and that we can have an eternal life with God, puts more hope in awful and heartbreaking circumstances. Hope is a logical way of thinking and a great outlook on life. Instead

of someone worrying about the temporary sadness and horrible events, one can hope for a better and brighter future.

I have read bits and pieces of an essay that refers to hope as an active term. They say it can be a "response of the creature to the Infinite Being" (Marcel 1962).<sup>1</sup> I really like this way of viewing hope because it also shows how hope is not part of the human nature. Not something that we can create. Hope shows a natural response to a greater being. Hope can be thought of as a concept that is the greatest, it is very big and has meaning deeper than we realize. This points to the greatest being, God, similar to the ontological argument. The essence of hope is something greater than we could

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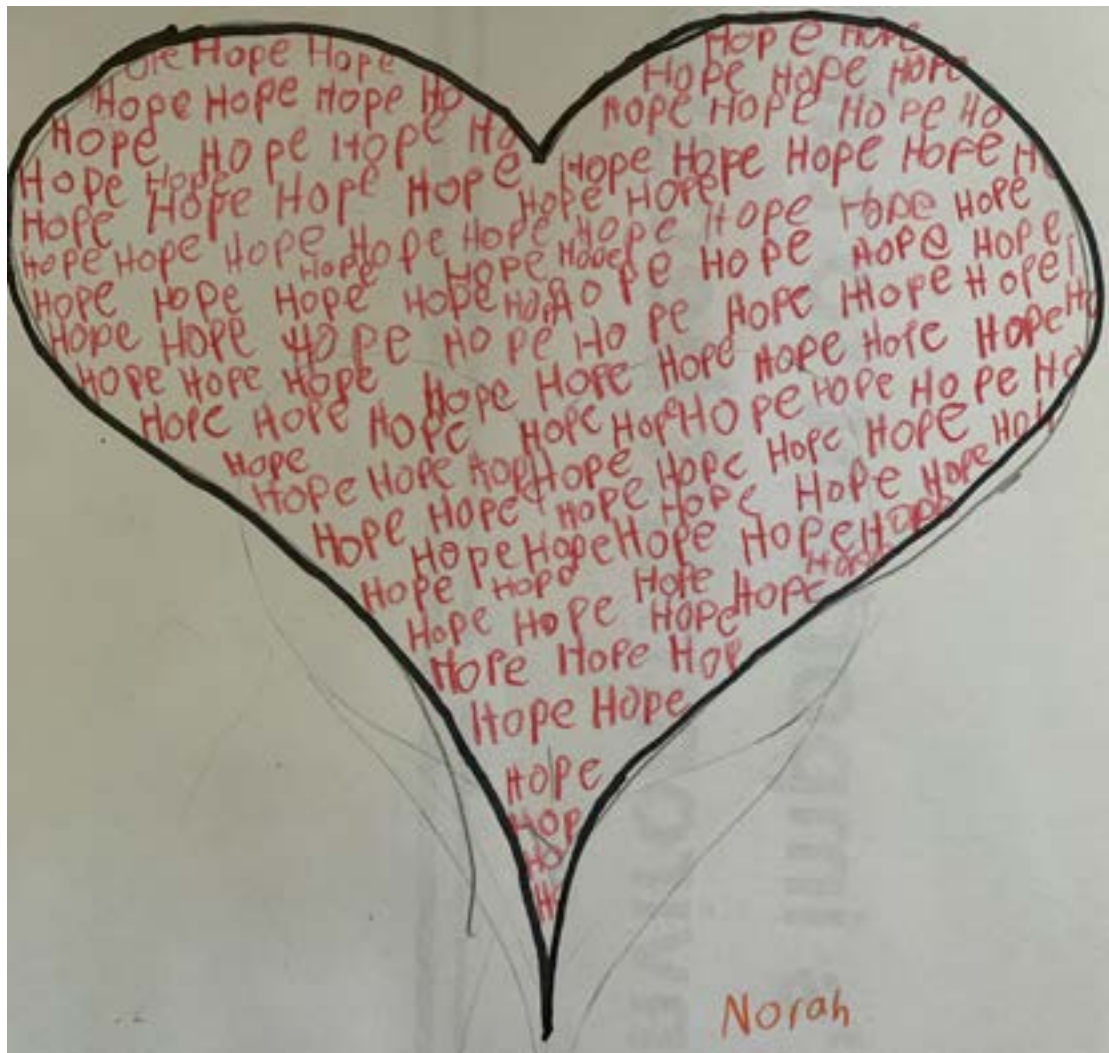
fathom. We have feelings of hope, and as Christians, eternal hope. Eternal hope has many aspects involved that we could only guess. We do not have a full understanding of what this could mean as there are many possibilities.

Hope can be very simplistic like “I hope I get an A on this test.” It can also be a mindset and attitude which affects our everyday living. Living as a person who finds their hope in God and in the greatest imaginable being, changes how we view circumstances. Troubles here on Earth quickly become very temporary and we focus on what greater things are to come. The unknown can allow us to choose to live in a state of hope, or fear. These two terms can contradict each other. Hope is positive and allows you to live in the freedom that believing

in God gives. Fear scares us into living too safe of a life and very attached to what is materialistic. Although, you can also have hope as a fearful person. If someone is sick and you are afraid for them to die, you could say “I hope they live” as a response. This reaction I think points to a greater being who is all knowing who we instinctively pray to. Hope can be seen in many different ways, but it is ultimately something so unimaginably great and fuels a person with freedom and positivity.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>“Defining And Analysing The Concept Of Hope Philosophy Essay.” *UKEssays.com*. [www.ukessays.com/essays/philosophy/defining-and-analysing-the-concept-of-hope-philosophy-essay.php](http://www.ukessays.com/essays/philosophy/defining-and-analysing-the-concept-of-hope-philosophy-essay.php)



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