

# NEVER LOSE HOPE

*Biblical Promises for Times of Trouble, Chaos, and Calamity*



# CHARLES R. SWINDOLL



*Never Lose Hope*



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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace in believing, so that by the power of  
the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

ROMANS 15:13, ESV





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# Introduction

WE'RE LIVING IN SOME TOUGH DAYS, FRIENDS. Life is difficult and demanding. It's often filled with pain, heartache, setbacks, and detours. More and more, we seem to be living on the ragged edge of chaos . . .

- one financial crisis away from bankruptcy
- one blowup away from relational collapse

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- one temptation away from moral failure
- one calamity away from emotional meltdown
- one illness away from physical breakdown
- one doubt away from apostasy

When such troubles strike, they can be downright devastating. But they don't have to be!

We can endure unexpected calamities. How? By taking our stand on the strong foundation of God's Word. When trials and tribulations rumble in like a fleet of bulldozers to demolish our lives, we can emerge from the rubble with a strong resolve to recover and rebuild. We don't have to settle for merely surviving; we can set our sights on thriving.

Our good, powerful, awesome God is inviting us to run to Him as our only strong tower, which can never teeter or topple.

In Him alone, we can find the strength and hope to endure.

So, fix your eyes on the one who orders chaos, fills emptiness, and lights up the darkness.

When you do, you'll see clearly that there's a purpose at the end of life's journey of adversity.

In fact, more than a purpose—there's a Person.

Trust Him and He will see you through.

*Charles R. Swindoll*



PROMISES FOR  
WHEN TROUBLE  
COMES YOUR WAY



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Dear brothers and sisters,  
when troubles of any kind  
come your way, consider it an  
opportunity for great joy.

JAMES 1:2

Troubles are inescapable. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are irksome and irritating, others deep and dangerous. When the inevitable troubles of various kinds come, remember this vital truth about them—*they have a purpose*. They are all part of His plan. When we accept this, we can view them as opportunities for growth. Don't look for an escape hatch. Instead, lean into God's plan and learn from the trials. Let them water your roots so you can grow deeper in your relationship with Him.





We know that God causes everything  
to work together for the good of  
those who love God and are called  
according to his purpose for them.

ROMANS 8:28

Recognizing that troubles have a purpose is much better than always asking, “Why did this happen? Why me? Why now?” Instead, we can ask much more fruitful questions: “What can I learn from this about God’s grace? About the love of His Son? About the comfort of the Holy Spirit? What important truth is God teaching me at this point in my journey?” When we shift our focus from “why” to “what,” we can begin to face the inevitable troubles of life as opportunities for growth and great joy.

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“I know the plans I have for you,”  
says the LORD. “They are plans for  
good and not for disaster,  
to give you a future and a hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Don't just acknowledge the truth about God's purpose in our trials; ponder it. Don't just nod your head in agreement; lean into it with your whole heart. Remind yourself, “There's a reason for this difficulty. Through this, I'll get to know God better. I'll get to know myself better. Maybe I won't know exactly how God is working things out for my good and His glory, but I'm going to regard it as true.” Then remind yourself again.

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The LORD will work out  
his plans for my life—  
for your faithful love,  
O LORD, endures forever.  
Don't abandon me,  
for you made me.

PSALM 138:8

Let's be honest. We always want the fruits, but we seldom want the fertilizer. We want to reap the wares, but we don't want to pluck the weeds. We want a bountiful harvest of spiritual growth, but we don't love the toil of tilling the rock-hard soil. This is why we need to keep at the forefront of our minds the outcome of this trouble. It's a testing ground for our faith. Through our trials, we reap the

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greatest spiritual harvest. Knowing this truth will help us endure the challenges we face.



If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

JAMES 1:5

When troubles come and stay, we need to drop to our knees and ask God for the wisdom to handle them. We can pray something like this: “Lord, I’m in a mess, part of which I caused and part of which I didn’t. It has brought loss, heartache, feelings of failure, and disappointment to me and to others. I need You to help me see through Your eyes what I can’t see through

my own. Help me, Lord, to grow through this experience, to look at these troubles from Your perspective. By Your grace, let me ponder it rightly and gain a proper understanding of it. I desperately need Your wisdom because I don't have it in myself." When you ask for wisdom with an honest and sincere heart, you can trust God to answer.



God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

JAMES 1:12

Not only does God grant us the strength to endure, He also rewards us for that

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endurance. What grace! When hardships multiply, grace abounds. When our attempts to fix our problems fail, grace keeps us standing. When we handle trials God's way rather than through our own efforts, we receive a sense of contentment, satisfaction, patience, and even deep joy. If we learn to handle life's trials correctly, we'll experience God's blessings.



We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has

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given us the Holy Spirit to fill our  
hearts with his love.

ROMANS 5:3-5

If we ask God for wisdom to think about our troubles properly, and if we rely on His power to endure them, we can go from wretched souls bruised *by* adversity to wise souls matured *through* adversity. Trust that He is working through your troubles for your good. Let the lingering trial run its course. Seek His mind as you ask for the wisdom only He can give. Know that He is at work to bring you a depth of character you would otherwise miss.