



# Love...

# The Call of Always

“Love....,

...It always Hopes...

1 Corinthians 13:7 (NIV)

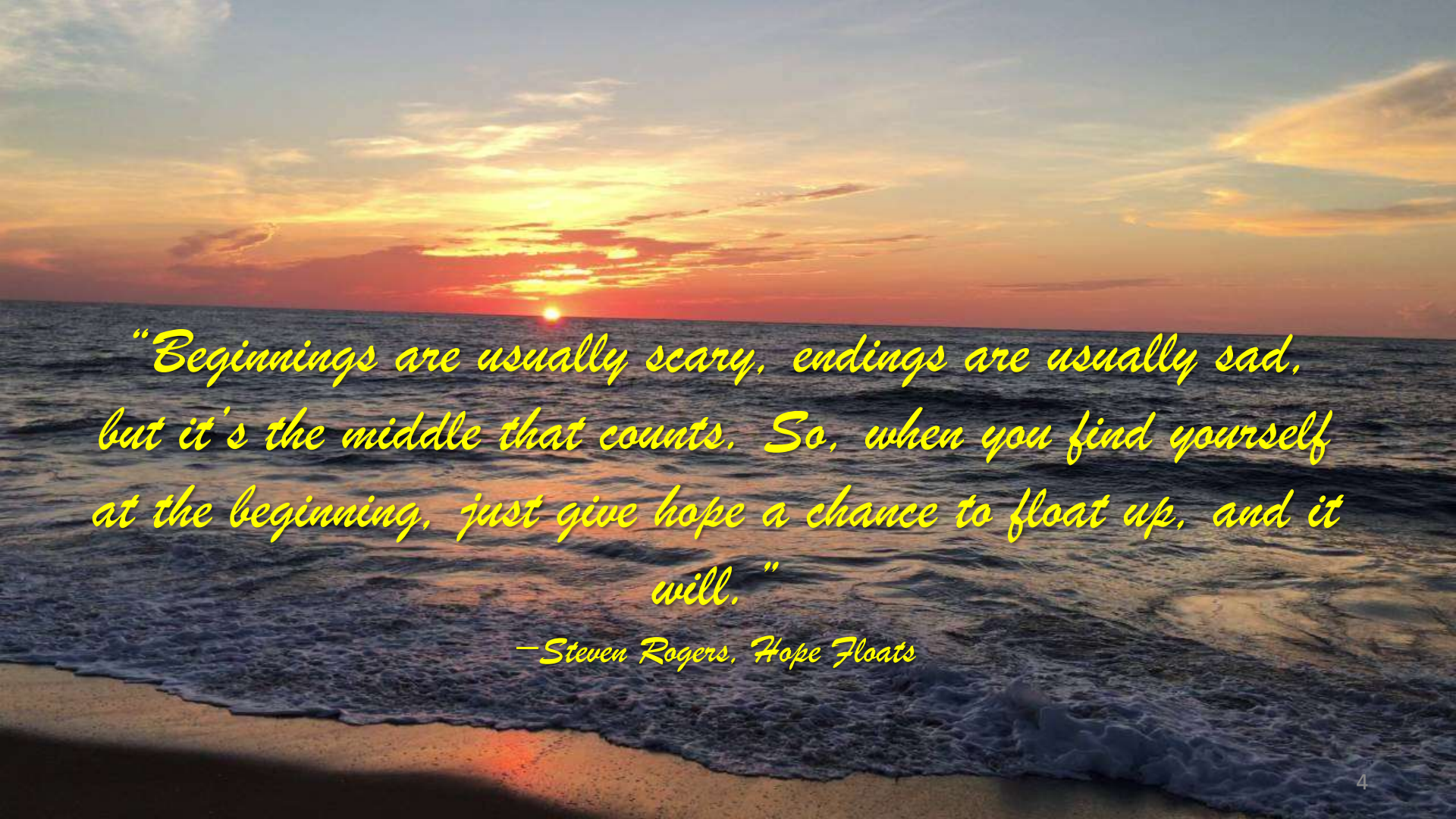


Hope is like the SUN, which,  
as we JOURNEY toward it,  
casts the SHADOW of our  
burden BEHIND us.

— Samuel Smiles





A serene sunset scene over the ocean. The sun is a bright orange orb just above the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The ocean is dark blue with white foam from the waves breaking on the shore. The quote is written in a yellow, cursive font, centered over the middle of the image.

*"Beginnings are usually scary, endings are usually sad,  
but it's the middle that counts. So, when you find yourself  
at the beginning, just give hope a chance to float up, and it  
will."*

*—Steven Rogers, Hope Floats*

# 1 Corinthians 13 Was Not Written To Get People Through COVID 19.

- Love is about relationships.
- Therefore, Hope is about relationships.
- Love and Hope are forever connected.
- Hope is also about Life





# Love, Trust, and Hope Are Inexorably Connected!

- It is Love that empowers our ability to Hope and Trust.
- In difficult relationships, love both trusts and hopes that an encounter with Jesus can change an untrustworthy sinner into witness for Christ.
- Love changes despair to hope.

Hope Transforms Both Our  
Relationships  
And  
Our View Of Life  
Because It Transforms US!

# The Key To The Transformation

- LOVE!
- When we love as God has loved us, a hope is birthed in us that brings a sense of *shalom* to life in general and transformation to our relationships.





# All Love Is Measured By How God Loved Us.

- 1 John 3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.
- 1 John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Even Our Capacity For Hope In Suffering  
Is Rooted  
In The Love We Have From God.



## Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.



Just As,  
“Hurt people ... hurt people”

So Also,  
“Hope-filled people ...  
fill people with hope”

# Desmond Tutu,

South African churchman, politician,  
and Nobel Prize winner



*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all  
of the darkness."*

## Romans 8:18-25 (NIV)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God..



We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently

Hope is what sustains us as we  
wait for part of the “glory” that is  
to be our eternal inheritance

# Hope Sustains us...

- During “this age.”
- In “our present sufferings”
- As we live as fallen people with broken relationships
- In a fallen world involving natural disasters, disease (COVID 19, cancer, etc.) and death.
- Until “the age to come” when glory will be revealed both in and to us.



**We are already daughters  
and sons of God but we  
do not yet have our full  
inheritance.**



# Even Creation, The Physical Universe, Lives In Hope.

- “the creation waits in eager expectation.”
- This is compound word that means “to stretch out the head, to crane the neck forward.”
- Philips translates it, “Creation is on tiptoe.”

# I Love How Eugene Peterson Translates This In *The Message*.

Romans 8:19-21 That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

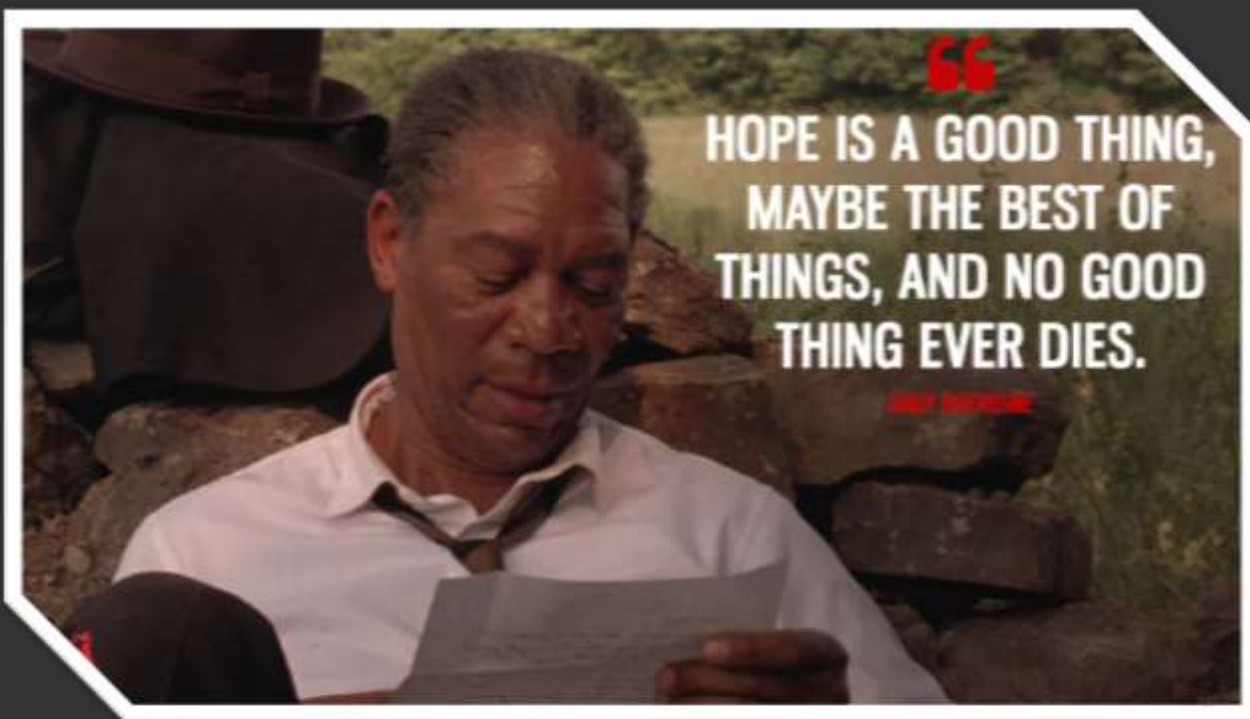


Romans 8:22-25 All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's *within* us.

The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Romans 8:26-28 Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along.

If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.



“  
HOPE IS A GOOD THING,  
MAYBE THE BEST OF  
THINGS, AND NO GOOD  
THING EVER DIES.

RAY BRADBURY

“Love... Always Hopes.”  
God Is Showing Us What Love That  
“Always Hopes” Looks Like.

Luke 15: 20

“But while he was still a long way off, his  
father saw him...”



# God is Love

## Love Always Hopes

Ephesians 5:1-2

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

# In Our Present Situation, Hope Is An “Essential Business.”

- Hope says...
- We will get through this virus.
- We will be able to leave our houses again.
- We will see each other face to face.
- We will be gathering again and shaking hands and hugging.

We must infect the world with this contagious, Christ-like love so that it will empower people to live in hope during times like these.





# Let's Pray This Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
You have shown us what a love that always hopes looks, feels and sounds like. It looks like a father standing on his front porch, on his tiptoes, craning his neck trying to see if today is the day his long lost son will appear on the horizon. It is that longing that develops within us to be with You and our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is the pains of birth that immediately turn into the shrieks of joy in new life. It is the sound of hope-filled Christians singing "...Lord come quickly, Hallelujah." So, this morning we ask, help us to love hopefully so the world can see you is us.

We ask in the name of Jesus, Amen