

HOPE DOESN'T DISAPPOINT



Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 27 AUG 2023



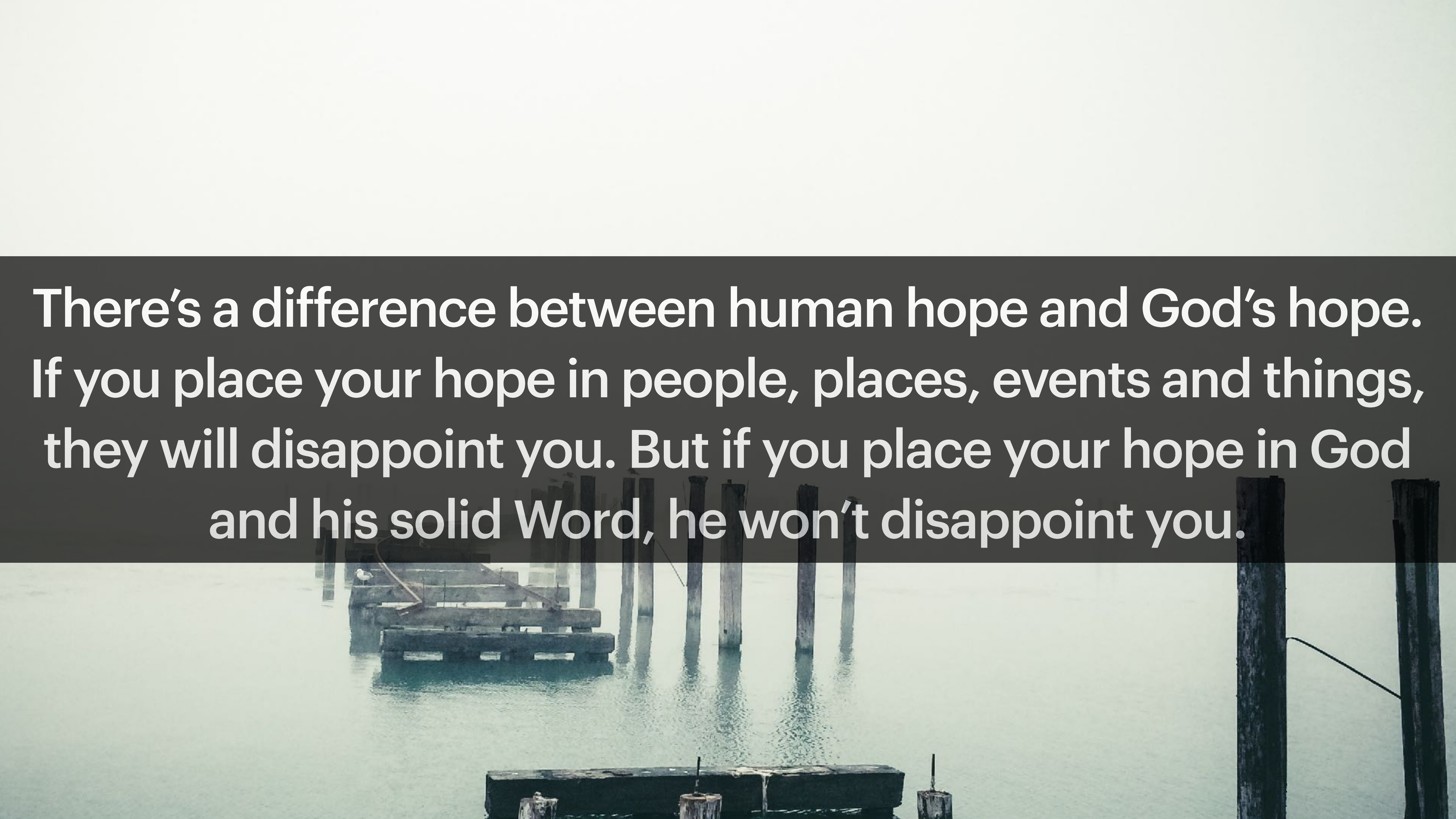
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Hope is not a mirage (Rom. 5:5).

A serene coastal scene with a wooden pier extending into the water under a pale sky. The water is calm and reflects the light. The pier is made of dark wood and has several vertical posts. The sky is a soft, pale blue. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

There's a difference between human hope and God's hope. If you place your hope in people, places, events and things, they will disappoint you. But if you place your hope in God and his solid Word, he won't disappoint you.

1 Cor 13:13

ΝΥΝ ΔΕ ΜΕΝΕΙ

But, now remains

ΠΙΣΤΙΣ,

Trust,

ΕΛΠΙΣ,

Hope,

ΑΓΑΠΗ

Love

ΤΑ ΤΡΙΑ ΤΑΥΤΑ

The three things

ΜΕΙΖΩΝ ΔΕ ΤΟΥΤΩΝ

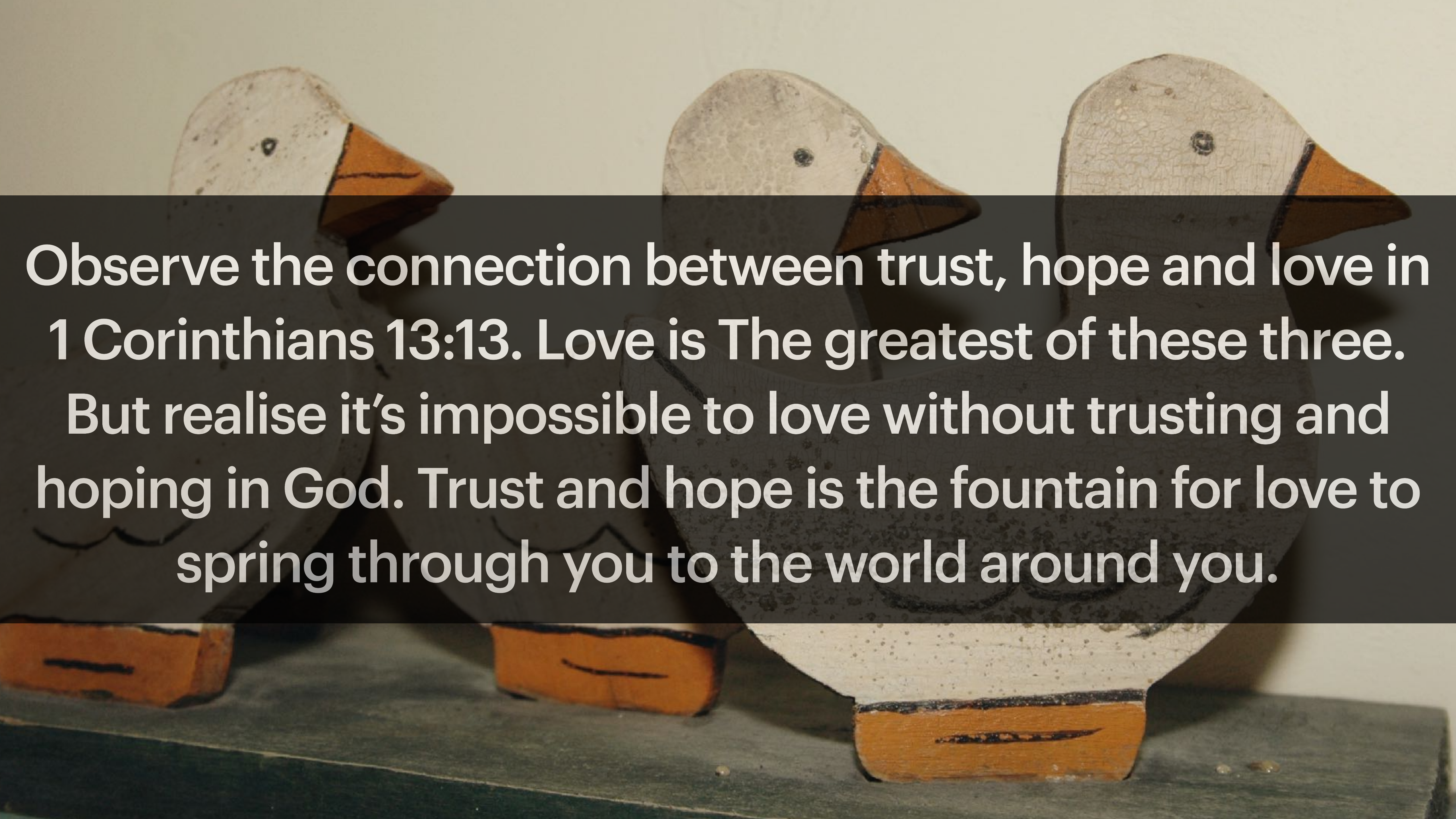
But, the greatest of these is

ἡ ἀγάπη.

THE LOVE.



**“Now remains
Trust,
Hope,
Love –
God’s dynamic trio –
Yet, the lead role
Goes to love.”**



Observe the connection between trust, hope and love in 1 Corinthians 13:13. Love is The greatest of these three. But realise it's impossible to love without trusting and hoping in God. Trust and hope is the fountain for love to spring through you to the world around you.



*"Your love
springs from
the hope
securely stored
for you
in the heavens."
- Colossians 1:5a, it*

HOPE

by Glen Gerhauser

"Now the God who knows the future - who is hope - fill you with effervescent joy and restorative peace as you trust in his faithfulness. Then, you'll abound, overflowing with hope - God's own confident expectation - by the Holy Spirit's power" (Rom. 15:13, 17).

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H

HIS

Hope is from God. It's not our wishful thinking. Instead, hope is who God is and how he thinks. It's 'God's own confident expectation' and comes from the Holy Spirit's power within us (Rom. 15:13).

O

OUTLOOK,

Hope is God's attitude, his outlook. He knows the future and has already sealed his victory over sin, death, darkness, sickness and the devil. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Rom. 16:20). Hope has the same outlook as the Lord. It's certain what his Word declares about the past, present and future (Rom. 5:1-5).

P

PERSPECTIVE &

Hope is God's perspective, how he sees things. God sees from above, perceiving the end from the beginning. Hope puts our problems into perspective. It shows us that what matters is his will and purposes. Hope is like a hot air balloon that causes you to rise above this world's problems (Rev. 21:6; Isa. 46:10; Titus 2:13).

E

EXPECTANCY

Hope is the expectancy and anticipation of God's goodness. Specifically, it's participating in God's assurance. He cannot lie. Therefore, his hope is not a mirage and never disappoints. Our expectations of people, things and events often dishearten us. That's why we need to base our expectancy on who God is and what he's promised (Heb. 6:18-19; Titus 1:2; Ps. 27:13-15).

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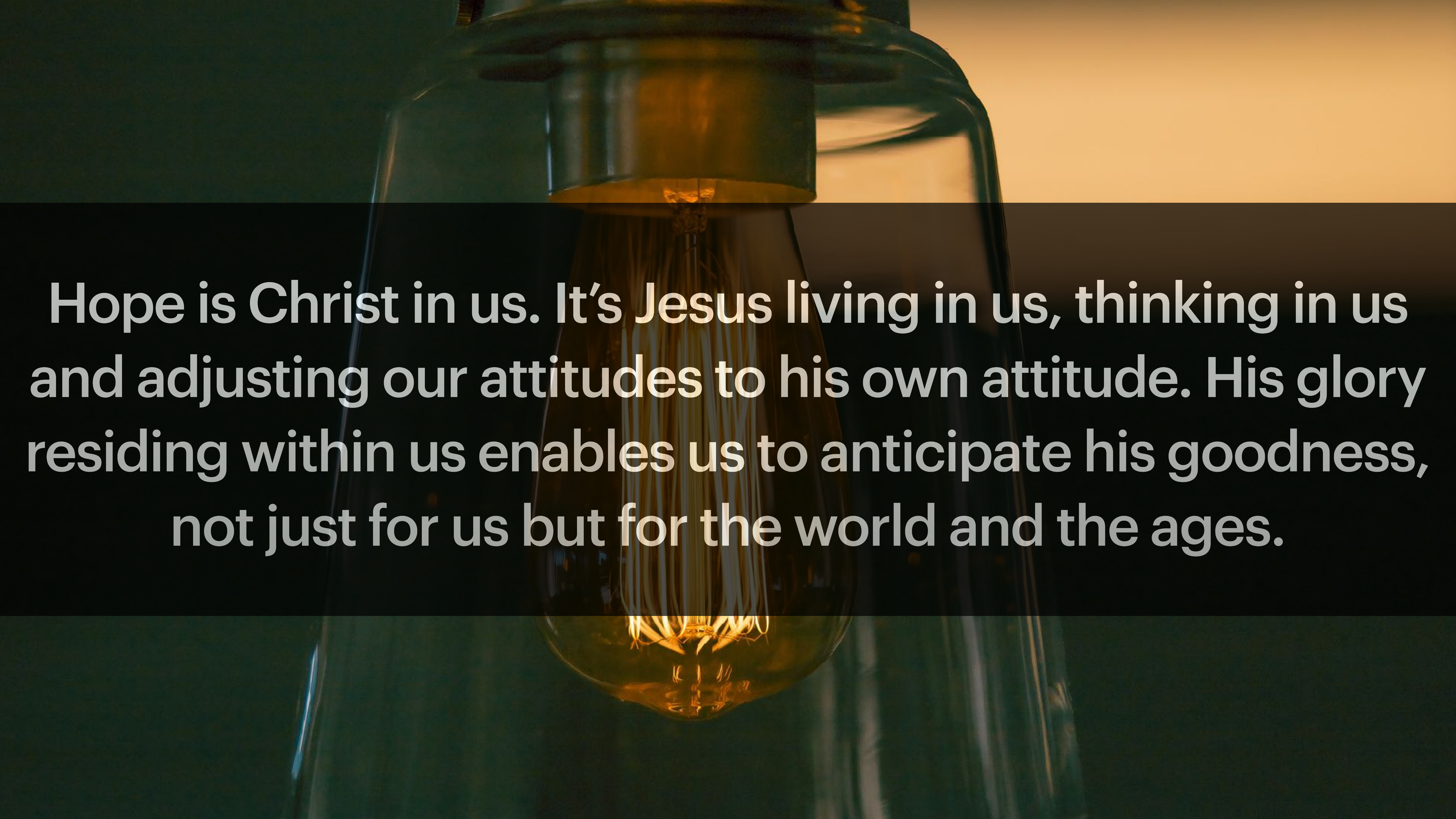
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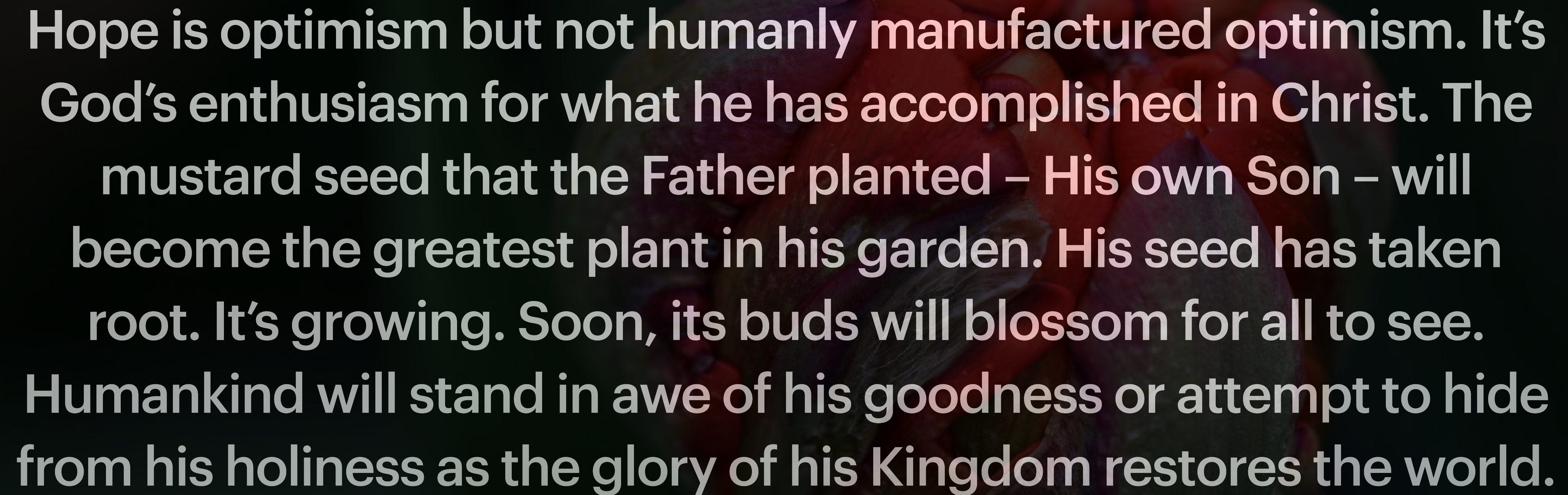
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A glowing lightbulb is centered within a glass jar, which is partially filled with a golden liquid. The background is a soft, warm gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The lightbulb's glow illuminates the surrounding glass and liquid, creating a sense of warmth and hope.

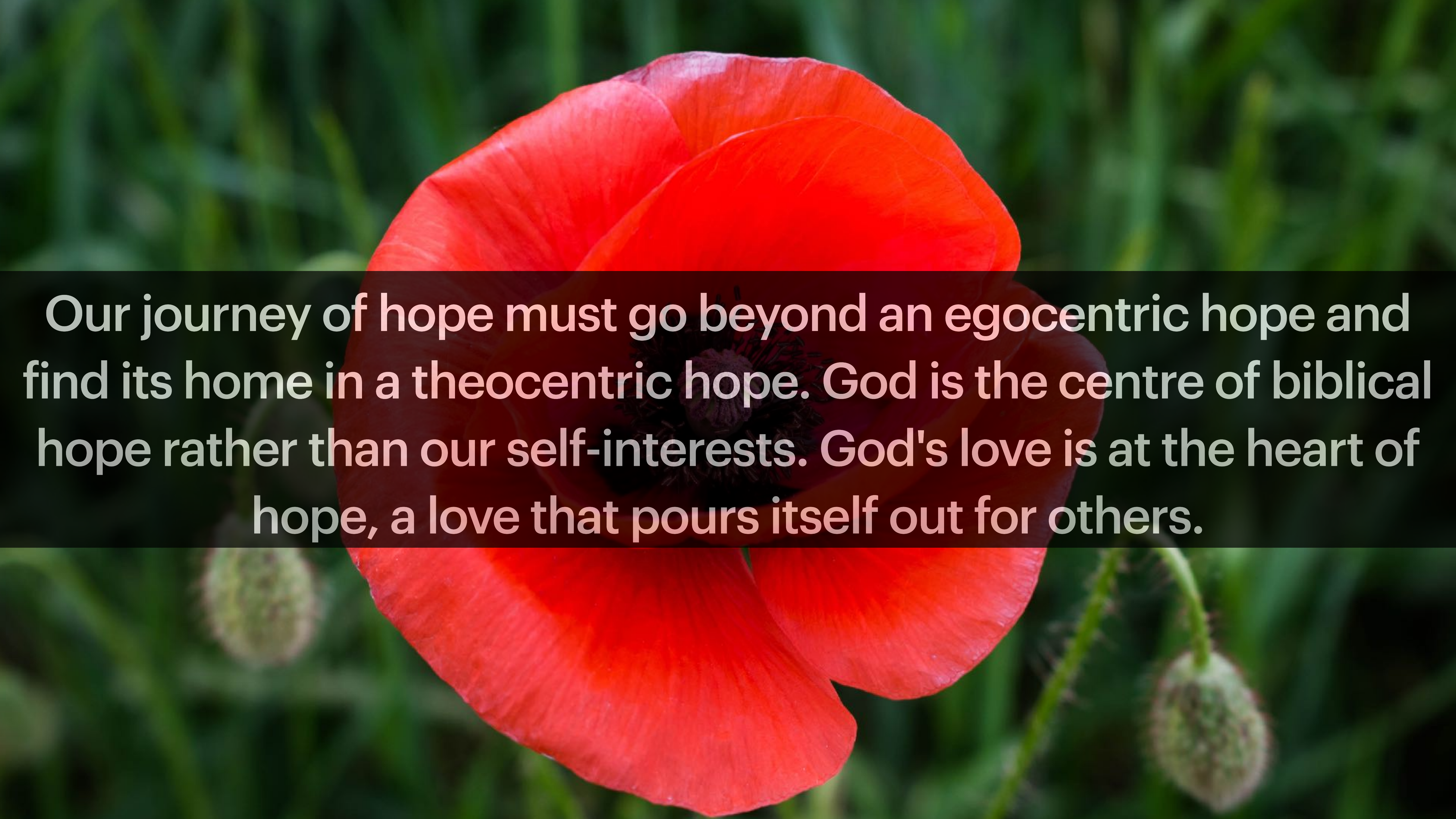
Hope is Christ in us. It's Jesus living in us, thinking in us and adjusting our attitudes to his own attitude. His glory residing within us enables us to anticipate his goodness, not just for us but for the world and the ages.



Hope sees beyond yourself. It gets lost in God's eternal plan for his bride, Israel and the nations. Hope sees that you're a piece of the puzzle contributing to what matters: Christ's love triumphing over humanity, time and space.



Hope is optimism but not humanly manufactured optimism. It's God's enthusiasm for what he has accomplished in Christ. The mustard seed that the Father planted – His own Son – will become the greatest plant in his garden. His seed has taken root. It's growing. Soon, its buds will blossom for all to see. Humankind will stand in awe of his goodness or attempt to hide from his holiness as the glory of his Kingdom restores the world.



Our journey of hope must go beyond an egocentric hope and find its home in a theocentric hope. God is the centre of biblical hope rather than our self-interests. God's love is at the heart of hope, a love that pours itself out for others.