

References in this leaflet are from the Bible:

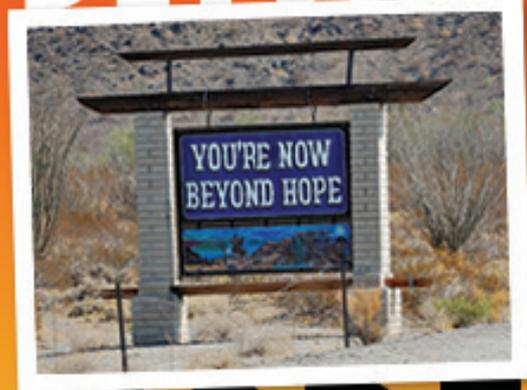
1. Ephesians chapter 2 verse 12
2. Acts chapter 17 verse 25
3. Romans chapter 15 verse 13
4. Colossians chapter 1 verse 23
5. Romans chapter 6 verse 23

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BEYOND



HOPE



HOPE, Arizona

On the US Highway in Arizona there is a tiny village called Hope. It boasts only a grocery store and a 2-pump gas station. You could easily drive past without noticing it!

As you leave the village a roadside sign reads, "YOU'RE NOW BEYOND HOPE", with the intention of raising a smile on the motorist's face, and it does! It not only raises smiles, but serious thoughts too, for some have said, "That's me! I'm beyond hope."

It's surprising how many people feel like that. But life turns sour sometimes: huge disappointments in family or business; broken health; maybe through alcoholism, drugs or depression. There seems no end to the long dark tunnel. Whatever the cause - of our own making or not - it's tough and it's easy to lose hope.

THE GOD OF HOPE

The Bible confirms that. In fact it uses the expression, "*without hope and without God*",¹ the two go together. If we are without God we are without hope, but we do not need to be without God. He is our maker and He cares for us, "*he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else*".²

Sin has raised a terrible barrier between us and God - and we are all sinners. We have all broken God's laws. And because we break them God seems far away and life seems hopeless. *It need not be like this. You are not beyond hope.* Honestly, you are not!

The Bible says, "*the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope*".³ 'Joy and peace' - surely that is what you want? God wants to give them to you and His gifts are lasting and real. He gives peace that does not come and go with life's ups and downs, and joy deep in the heart. *Life does not need to be hopeless.*

The Bible promises that there is a hope held out in the gospel.⁴ The gospel is God's good news which concerns His Son, Jesus Christ. He came to this world to be our Saviour and He died on a cross to bear the punishment for our sins. God asks us to believe in Him and to receive His gift of eternal life. "*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*".⁵



The little village of Hope lies at the crossroads of Highways 60 and 72. Maybe God is bringing you to the crossroads of your life.

If you will believe His word, acknowledge that you are a sinner and put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you will find your heart will overflow with hope. It will - for that is His promise, and God always keeps His promises.