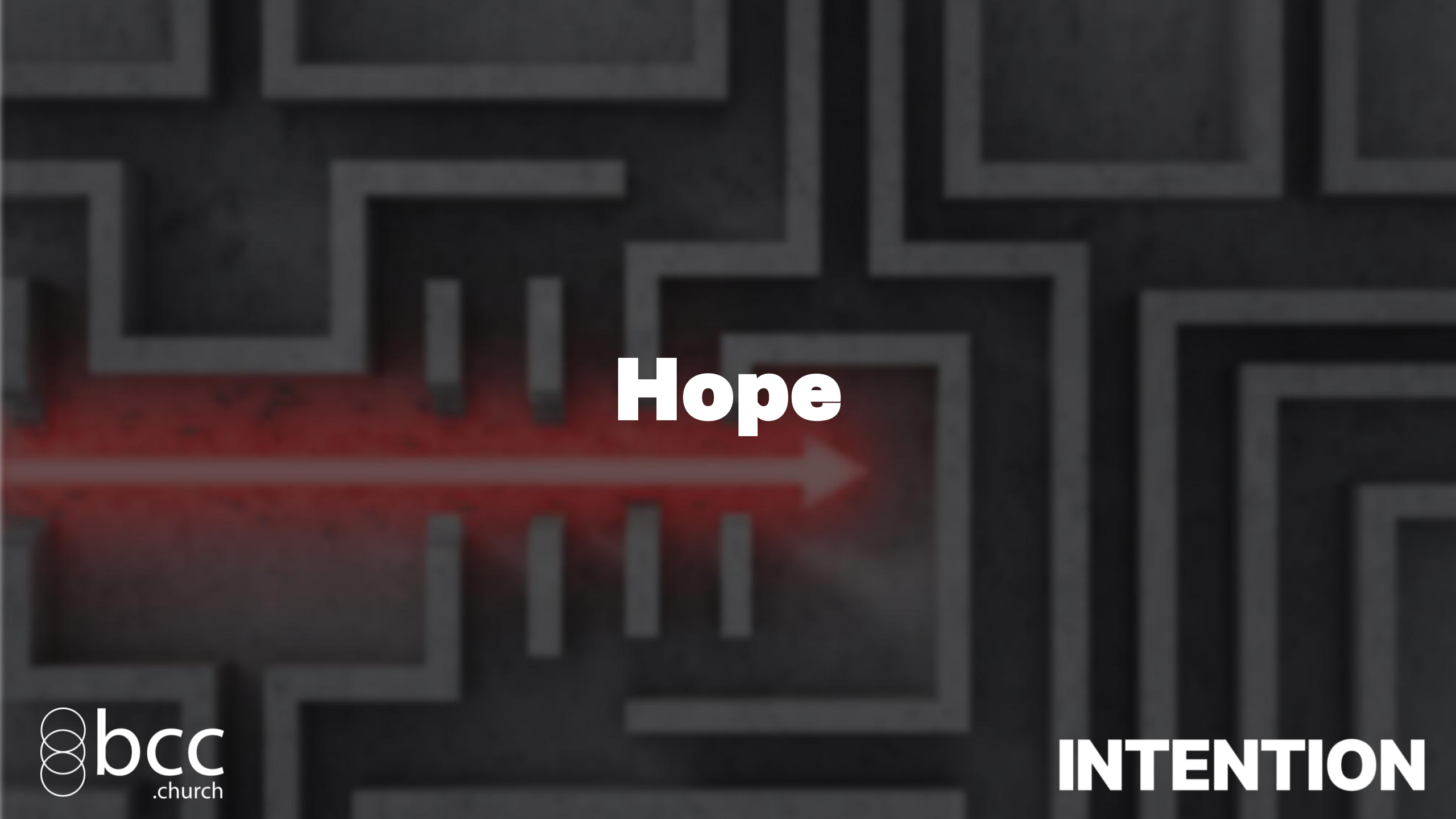




Hope

1 Thessalonians 4 :15-18 NKJV

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Romans 5:1-5 NKJV

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Four features of Romans 5:1-5

1. Confessional

2. Eschatological

3. Juxtapositional

4. Experiential

Romans 15:13 NKJV

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

‘Everything begins with God. If there is no God, there is no hope. Hope starts with God. With God we can become a hopeful, happy and peaceful child of God, in spite of all we are going to face in the future. When you became a Christian God put hope in your heart, in the newborn heart there is hope and it yields joy and peace. When joy and peace abound through the troubles of life, hope abounds more and more because it feeds on its own fruit.’

John Piper

Four features of Romans 5:1-5

1. Confessional

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3. Juxtapositional

4. Experiential

Eschatological Expectation - The Feast of Trumpets

Leviticus 23:24

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Four features of Romans 5:1-5

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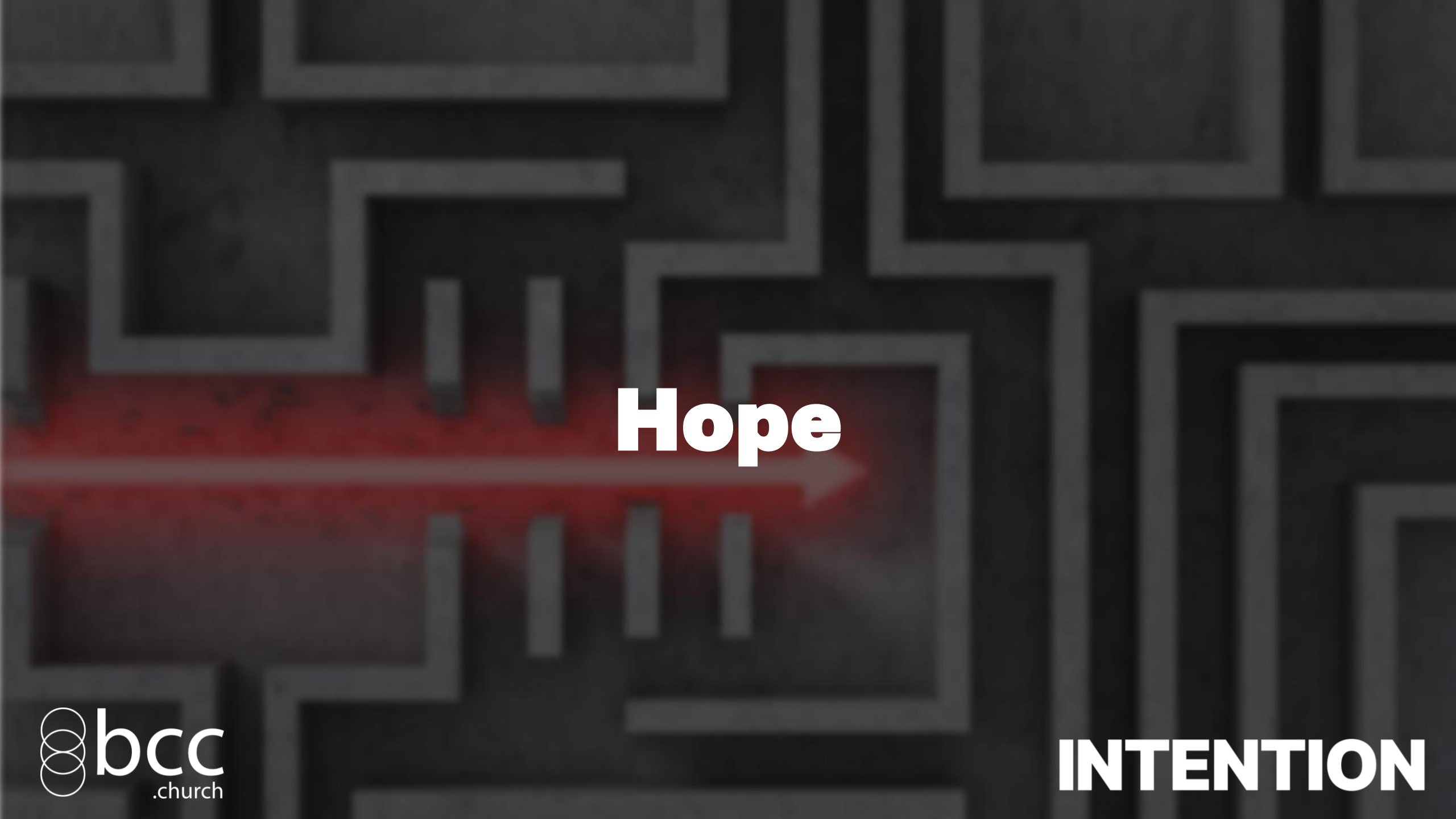
4. Experiential

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow
strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.**

Helen Howarth Lemmel

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between biblical hope and simply being optimistic?
2. Romans 5:3–5 describes a process from tribulation → perseverance → character → hope. How have difficult experiences shaped your faith or helped you develop perseverance?
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 points to the future return of Christ and concludes by telling believers to comfort one another with this hope. How should this future hope influence our priorities, attitudes and relationships today?
4. What tends to weaken your sense of hope, and how can you deliberately turn your focus back towards God?
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, “Therefore comfort one another with these words.” Is there someone in your family, workplace, church or friendship circle who may need encouragement right now? What could you say or do to bring them hope?



Hope