

The Illusions of Hope

We have often heard the word *hope* bantered about in public and private discussions like it was something certain. *Hope* is the expectation that a particular result will occur, or the reasonable assurance that something will happen in a certain way.

But what does the word *hope* really mean? *Hope* is the desire to have a certain outcome, or to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment. To desire a certain outcome or to wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment means that we are leaving the outcome to chance, or random probability. There is a high probability that we won't get the outcome that we desire. It is like hoping to win the lottery jackpot. We can wish or desire this outcome to be true, but our chances of winning the lottery are statistically the same whether we buy a ticket or not.

Hopeless is at the opposite end of hope. Hopeless means that there is no hope. It is impossible to accomplish or solve. There is no possibility of solution. It is impossible. There is no optimism, only despair.

So if we are wishing for or desiring a specific outcome are we in *hope* or *hopeless*? We can start off in hope but we will always end up in hopeless because the outcome that we wish for is only a dream or an illusion. It is not rooted in reality.

To achieve the outcome that we desire, it is necessary to take the actions necessary to achieve the desired results. Wishing for a certain result without taking the requisite actions means that we are not taking responsibility for our actions. We are claiming that our experiences are subject to the whims of outside forces beyond our control. This is simply not true.