

HOPE

Hope and memory

Hope is rooted in the past but believes in the future. Hope lies in the memory of God's previous goodness to us in a world that is both bountiful and harsh.

Joan Chittister

Memory [is] not just a storehouse of the past, but also a warehouse in the present containing the building blocks of the future.

Denise Inge

Chittister also says that despair is not about losing faith so much as memory". Hope is "the ability to remember [our past] with new understanding." Is remembering important to you? What do you (choose to) forget? What are some of the ways you could nurture your memory? It is critical what we remember.

We can only find our hope again if we resolve never to forget.

Jurgen Moltmann

Hope, not optimism

All is well. Not by facile optimism, not in blinkered evasions, but in the richest and most active dimension of our humanity.

Dennis Potter

[Hope] is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out

Vaclav Havel

Optimism may simply be a sunny disposition, thinking things will get better. It is not necessarily based in reality. It may be completely illusory, a way of blinding us to what is going on. It is based on how things turn out. It evades what's real. It is useless in the face of despair. "Hope is the faith that, together, we can make things better." (Jonathan Sacks)

Why do you choose optimism?

When you do, what do you have to ignore, repress?

What's it like, and what does it cost to keep in view "things as they really are"?

Optimism cannot bear the full weight of what is asked of us. Hope is a real alternative. It touches the transcendent in us, and speaks of the "more than", the "beyond" which is part of being human.

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.

Contact: juliancentre@gmail.com

Philip Carter is a retired Anglican Priest. He was the inaugural president of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD). He ran the Julian Centre in Adelaide, an independent and ecumenical centre for spirituality, from 1997-2009.
Contact: juliancentre@gmail.com