

DROPPING YOUR GUARD: THE VALUE OF OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

A HOPE TRANSPLANT: THE ESSENTIAL OPERATION

ACTS 5:14–42; 1 PETER 5:1–11



The Heart of the Matter

How would you define *hope*? In what way would your definition apply to a local church? What if hope were missing from a congregation? Would anybody notice? We'll think about these and other things as we allow Peter's words to guide us into the truth about hope. Of special interest are the essentials involved in keeping a church's hope strong and constant. These passages of Scripture suggest several ingredients that must be present if hope is to remain a vital part of a church's life.



Discovering the Way

1. Churches Come in Every Variety

Though churches and denominations vary widely, the essential characteristic of hope must be present in all of them.

2. A Brief Analysis of Hope (Proverbs 13:12; Acts 5:14–42; 1 Peter 5:1–10)

The word *hope* means to desire something with the expectation of its fulfillment. Hope imparts vitality and energy to the life of a church.

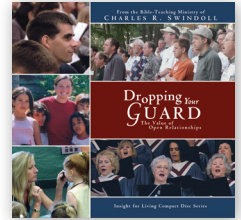


Starting Your Journey

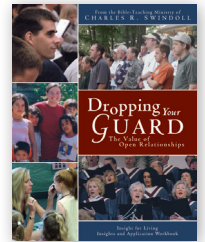
To keep hope strong in our lives and in the life of the church, we must have these essential ingredients: the right kind of leadership, true humility toward each other, a release of anxiety, an awareness of the adversary, and a proper response to adversity.



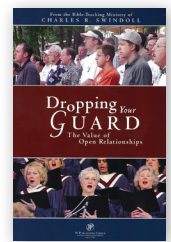
Tools for Digging Deeper



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