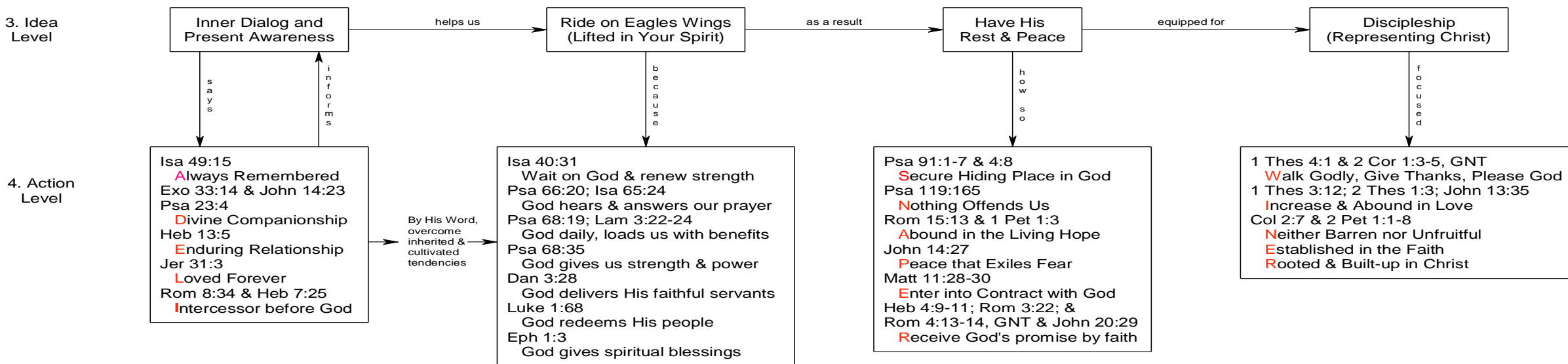


Living in the Positive Amidst Life's Uncertainties Knowing that You Belong to God and He Unceasingly Cares for You

1. "...Don't worry about your life..." (Matt 6:25, CJB). "Don't let yourselves be disturbed. Trust in God and trust in me" (John 14:1, CJB). Does Jesus understand how hard it is here on earth? Yes, He gets it! "God alone knows the way..." (Job 28:23, GNT; Prov 14:12). "Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you" (1 Pet 5:7, GNT). "...The One who is holy and true... has the key that belonged to David, and when He opens a door, NO ONE CAN CLOSE IT, and when He CLOSES IT, NO ONE CAN OPEN IT" (Rev 3:7, GNT). God's opening and closing of doors on your behalf is NOT haphazard! How do you know that? "...I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and NOT of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer 29:11, NKJV). How was this hope fulfilled? "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets..., but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son..." (Heb 1:1-2, NIV), "...that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). The life bequeathed to us by Jesus, which is in His **Word, makes God's "...light shine in our hearts**, to bring us the knowledge of God's glory... in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us" (2 Cor 4:6-7, GNT). Hence, in Jesus' prayer to the Father, He said, "I have given them thy word..." (John 17:14). And to us, He says, "...**The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life**" (John 6:63). "You are already clean because of the word, which I have spoken to you" (John 15:3, NKJV). "**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you**, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7, NKJV). As the message of the Christian church spread throughout the Roman empire, Gentile believers received this instruction, "Brethren, I commend you to God and to **the word of His grace**, which **is able to build you up** and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32, NKJV) by God's truth, which is in His Word (John 17:17). In view of these things, if you detect any destabilizing influence in your mind, then do like the Psalmist and ask this question: "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? **I will put my hope in God!** I will praise Him again--my Savior and my God..." (Psa 42:5-6, NLT). "...A branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me" (John 15:4, NLT). "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it" (John 15:7, GNT). Why is this assurance important to our well-being? "...I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and NOT of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer 29:11, NKJV).

2. Your memory aid for this study is **G-FHP**. God wants to give us a future and a hope as He thinks thoughts of peace toward us. Therefore, how can we live with optimism, hope and resolute calm as we navigate the vicissitudes, (ups and downs), of life? One answer to the question comes from the chart below. Follow along as we navigate from 3 to 4.

Live With Optimism, Bright-Living Hope & Resolute Calm



Definitions:

Hope is cherished desires, (Psa 50:3-5), anticipation, (Isa 25:6-9), expectancy, (Rev 21:3-4), longing for, a yearning, (Rev 6:10), a conviction, (Rom 8:38-39), and so on.
Trust is belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of (Num 11:23; Isa 59:1, & Rom 4:18, GNT)