

# The Fighting Virtue

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## Hope

Hope is not a “soft” virtue. It is a fighting virtue. Hope is what enables us to live in the present with strength and conviction. It takes hope to take action.

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## Discussion Questions

1. If you could choose to live to be any age, what would that age be? Why that particular number?
  2. Hope is the willingness to engage and embrace the realities of life as they come at you. It is very different from simply “wishing.” Can you see the difference between the two? Why is it often so much easier to “wish” than to “hope”? Discuss.
  3. Have you ever experienced the “gift” of getting everything you’ve hoped for (your lesser hopes) and known the disappointment of getting “all of your hopes”? If you haven’t, even knowing that those hopes do not satisfy, why do we all “still want to try it”? Discuss.
  4. Re-read Luke’s account of Jesus’ Beatitudes (Luke 6:17,20-26). In light of God’s vision for your life (to look like Him), do they take on a new character for you? How so? If not, what stays the same?
  5. The heart of hope, the fighting virtue, is trust. Do you find it easy to trust God? Or is it more difficult for you? Do you have a sense of why? Please share.
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## God in Real Life

Engage that virtue of hope that is fighting for your future. In those moments when you mourn this week, trust this week by praying this prayer of Saint Ignatius:

“Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace: that is enough for me.”

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## To the Heart

“Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord.” Jeremiah 17:7