



EPISODE 5: The Way of Hope

Our lives are a journey toward the True Light, Who is Christ. The virtue of hope gives us the confidence to live out our appointed task no matter the outcome here on earth.

“I am definitely loved, and whatever happens to me, I am awaited by this Love.” – St. Josephine Bakhita

Friendship is so important in our journey toward Christ. We set our course by the examples of those who have persevered in love, because, as **St. John** says, “whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” We are fundamentally creatures of relationship. And we learn in the Scriptures that we are like our Creator both in our capacity to reason and in our capacity for love. Love gives us hope, and it also connects us in the great community of the Church: the Communion of Saints. This friendship gave **Blessed Franz Jaegerstatter** the courage to stand firm with his conscience. We’re not on this journey alone.

“We have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present.”

– **Pope Benedict XVI**

Even if we know we might battle evil here and fail, we are sustained by our hope in God. God hasn’t called us to be successful, but to be faithful.

The work of the Christian life requires patience, both with ourselves and with others. We don’t know the journey someone else’s heart must make to reach God. Love is a choice, and it’s one we must all be free to make. We must focus on the work we’ve been given, and leave what we cannot control to God. Ultimately, we set our eyes on the hope of Heaven, and we trust that God will one day gather up all the broken pieces of this world and make them whole once more. This is our fairy tale, after all, and in this story, love really does conquer all.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs says that God created man and woman because He loves stories. Why do you think stories are so important to us? **Etty Hillesum** clings to beauty in the world around her as she is faced with the horror of the Holocaust. How does beauty help us hold onto hope, even when the world seems overwhelmingly dark? How is love connected to hope?

SUGGESTED READINGS

- *Spe Salvi* by Pope Benedict XVI
- *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Paradiso. The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri
- *Bakhita: From Slave to Saint* by Roberto Italo Zanini

Notes:
