

Hope

"I hope the traffic isn't too bad." "I hope the Boks win on Saturday." "I hope I get that job." "I hope it doesn't rain." HOPE. We use the word constantly — and almost always we mean the same thing by it: *I don't know what will happen, but I'd like it to go my way.* Hope, in everyday language, is a wish dressed in nicer clothes. It is uncertainty with a smile. Fingers crossed. Let's see. Maybe.

And so when we open the Bible and read the word *hope*, we instinctively hear it the same way. We hear wishful thinking, though we're not quite sure. We hear optimism. We hear: *let's look on the bright side.*

But when the Bible speaks of hope, it means something so profoundly different from our everyday usage that it almost seems like we're talking about a different word.

What is hope — from the perspective of the Bible, from the perspective of our Christian faith? It is not optimism or wishful thinking. Seven different terms used in the ancient original languages of Scripture point to the deep truth of Christian hope: It is confident assurance in God's faithfulness. Relying with certainty on God's promise.