



'The future intrudes upon the adolescent from many different directions at once: there are impending choices about jobs, careers, schooling, marriage. At the same time that there is a sudden inrush of 'future', there is a corresponding feeling of helplessness, of not knowing enough, of not being adequate to make choices, of being overwhelmed by uncertainties. The situation is exacerbated by a rapidly changing world in which things don't remain stable long enough to allow for good planning. The Christian church has a doctrine for equipping people to deal with the future - the doctrine of hope. Without hope a person has basically two ways to respond to the future - with wishing or with anxiety.'

'Hope is a response to the future which has its foundation in the promises of God.. but hope is not a doctrine about the future: it is grace cultivated in the present, it is a stance in the present which deals with the future.'

'The only person besides the adolescent more in need of grounding in Christian hope is the parent of the adolescent. The middle aged, notoriously, are afflicted with acedia (a state of listlessness or torpor, of not caring or not being concerned with one's position or condition in the world), and tristesse (a state of melancholy sadness)... and a whole culture functions to manipulate and make a profit out of faded hopes. As parents develop understandings and experiences of hope with their teenagers, they lay the foundations that both of them need and can use to build upon in the future'.

Eugene Peterson: 'Like Dew your Youth' page 72,73

'HOPE'

- How does the 'future' intrude in your own life and in that of your teenagers?
- Are you and/or they more prone to 'wishing' or 'anxiety'?
- What do you understand the christian doctrine of hope to mean? In what ways does your faith give you hope for your future and that of your teenagers?
- What practical ways might we 'develop understandings and experiences of hope' with our teenagers?

