

Man Cannot Live Without Hope

*D*r. Viktor Frankl, a Jewish neurologist and psychiatrist, was captured by the Nazis during World War II, and taken to a concentration camp, along with his family, where they suffered unimaginable horrors. Following the war, he wrote a book entitled, *Man's Search For Meaning*. He made one crucial observation from his days as a prisoner: the people in the concentration camp who were able to hold on to hope tended to survive. People who gave up hope died. Whether their hope was in God, or seeing loved ones, or the hope of being liberated, only those who clung to hope of some kind were able to make it through the hard times.

As a hospice chaplain, I see this all the time. One hospice patient was bravely hanging on in the hope of seeing her son who lived in another state. One of our nurses finally had to tell her that her son said he would not be coming. The woman took two breaths and died. As believers, where does our hope and help come from? David said, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2). The immediate future is uncertain, at best, and sometimes very frightening. But, God's faithfulness is certain. He, and He alone, is our one sure hope.

