

Knowing Instead of Hoping

Long before I was aware of Science of Mind principles, I learned the word *hope* can be problematic. While serving as an Army operations officer in Korea, I was briefing the brigade commander on a new communications system slated for an impending presidential visit. Sitting at the opposite end of a long conference table, my boss asked if I thought the satellite link would be resilient against potential North Korean hacking attempts.

"I hope so," I replied.

An incensed response came from the colonel: "Hope is not an acceptable strategy for military satellite communication systems."

Spiritual mind treatment (prayer) is our human connection to the strategy guided by Divine principle. However, hope isn't conducive during the realization process in an effective mental treatment.

Just yesterday, nearing the end of a healing treatment, I uttered the word *hope*. Alarms sounded in my brain, and I was reminded of the game Candy Land, in which a player is close to reaching Candy Castle only to draw the ill-fated Cupcake Card, sending them back to the starting point. I reinitiated the treatment.

Undoubtedly, hope is much needed in our world. The vexing h-word is at the core of one of my favorite scenes in the Star Wars saga, as the balance of the mythological universe lies in the hands of a forlorn, ragtag group standing against the malevolent Empire. The heroine asserts, "We have hope. Rebellions are built on hope."

Spiritual mind treatments, however, are built on *knowing*, not *hoping*. For me, the difference between knowing and hoping remains at the core of my spiritual practice.

I never used *hope* again when asked about a military operation, and that is the place I strive to be when giving a treatment — knowing that Spirit is perfect and needs no hope. Rebellions may be built on hope, but spiritual mind treatments are founded on certainty. ❀



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