

2021 is our 20th year as a church in Nuevo

It was January – 20 years ago

That God supernaturally started this church

& the Enemy has been Fighting against

that Sovereign Move of God - Every Year Since

& when we started this church

We Chose THIS Vs – Specifically for THIS Community

Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)

19 This hope (that we have in Jesus Christ) is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

This hope - that we have in Jesus Christ - is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls – And it leads us into God's very presence

The HOPE that you & I need today – as we enter 2021

is the Hope that comes from an **ever-increasing faith**

& an **ever-increasing relationship** with Jesus

It's a HOPE that Becomes - an ANCHOR for our Souls

It's a HOPE that LEADS US – into the very Presence of God

(& can I tell you) If **your HOPE** is in **anything else today**
You may be **standing** on **SINKING SAND**

***“On Christ the solid rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand”***

Let's Pray

How many times – in 2020 did you hear someone say –
“We’ve never **Seen A Year** like this”
‘We can’t wait – till this year’s over”

“Hopefully, **Next Year** will be better”

But - HERE’S my question for you today

ARE YOU Looking **to a New Year** – FOR HOPE?

ARE YOU **HOPING** For **BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES**
Just by turning a PAGE on the Calendar ?

I know that SOUNDS like a good & optimistic thing to do

to HOPE that just the passing of the days
will bring Better Circumstances

& maybe those Better Circumstances
will bring more HAPPINESS into our lives

& that makes all the **Sense In The World**
TO those who are **LIVING IN the World**

Because ALL that the world has for HOPE
Is the HOPE of Better Circumstances - ***in the days ahead***

BUT – the Radical, Life-Changing Truth of “Hope in God”
is 180 Degrees OPPOSITE - of the World’s View

On EVERY PAGE of the N.T.
God has UNVEILED

A **Supernatural HOPE**
that comes from a **Supernatural RE-BIRTH**

& that **New Spiritual Birth**

LEADS TO a **New Spiritual Life**
that is **NOT CONNECTED** to our **External Circumstances**

And **BEST of ALL** – is that
the **HOPE of God** - is the **Hope of HEAVEN !!**

It's **Heaven** coming to **Earth** – ***in our lives NOW***
& our **Lives** continuing **IN HEAVEN** – ***with God for Eternity***

It **all started** with **GOD** – **stepping** into our **World**
to **LIVE** our **life** – **AS** a man

John 1:1 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word (a name for Jesus – means “God in expression”), ***and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

& then - John 1:14 (ESV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . .

From THAT moment on - *Thru Every Chapter of the N.T.*

The people of God – Began Developing
a **Radically Different PERSPECTIVE** on **HOPE**

From THAT moment on – *Thru Every Chapter of the N.T.*

The People of God – Began Developing
a **Radically New Perspective**

on the **Outward Circumstances** of this **World**

No Longer do you see – the True Followers of Christ

Depending on their Outward Circumstances
to bring HAPPINESS – or PEACE - into their lives

No longer is it a **change** of *OUTWARD circumstances*
that they are **HOPEFUL** for

But instead - it is the **Growing INWARD LIFE** with Jesus Christ
that gives them **PEACE** & **JOY** - & **HOPE**

Their HOPE is no longer IN
the changing of a Calendar Day

Instead – You see them Learning
The HOPE that you & I NEED TODAY

They LEARNED - the Biblical Definition of HOPE

HOPE (in the Bible) is Defined as
A confident expectation based on solid certainty

God's HOPE - is a Confident Certainty

THAT we have been Born
into a New Life here

AND into an Eternal Life with God
in a **Very Real Heaven**

AND – it's a **HOPE** – that is a **Confident Certainty**
that **NOTHING** on this earth **can separate us** from that

& this **Confident HOPE**
that **comes** from their **New Life** in Jesus Christ

Continues to **push** - & **push** - & **push AWAY**

their **focus** - & their **concern**
about their **current, temporary** - **External Circumstances**

We could read a HUNDRED Verses – as Examples

But we have to at least mention

The **Sermon on the Mount**

Matthew 6:19–21 (NLT) – Jesus speaking

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

& then skipping thru - Matthew 6:25–33 (NLT)

(with some paraphrasing) – (Jesus speaking)

25 “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life . . . Isn’t life more than (the needs of this world) ? . . .

30 And if God cares so wonderfully for (the temporary things of nature), he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things . . .

32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. → → →

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

But – Here’s the problem

Don’t we – as Christians - tend to say

“Yeah, I know all that – But I still hope God will make my circumstances better in the new year . . .”

But – What if – us BUILDING our HOPES
on the Chance of Better Circumstances

Might actually be us building
the House of our Life – on the Sand?

Matthew 7:24–27 (NLT)

24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.

25 Though the rain comes in torrents (circumstances) and the floodwaters rise (circumstances) and the winds beat against that house (circumstances), it (that person’s life) won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock.

26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand.

27 When the (outward circumstances of) rains and floods come and the winds (of circumstance) beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Guys – We CANNOT put our HOPE
in wishing for Better Circumstances IN this World

Instead - - In order to build our life
on the Bedrock of Jesus Christ

We have GOT to put our HOPE
in God Transforming US - **THRU our Circumstances**

INSTEAD of Asking **God**
to **Change our Circumstances**

Our True HOPE comes

From us Asking **God**
to **CHANGE US - THRU our Circumstances**

God wants to CHANGE us – He wants to TRANSFORM Us
He wants to **GIVE US HOPE**

THRU our Circumstances !!

How . . . HOW DO WE BEGIN - To Allow God To Do That?

FIRST – We Acknowledge - & Confess to God

That our NATURE – is to Respond to our Circumstances –
in the Flesh – & just like The World does

We Acknowledge our Tendency to Respond with

Distracted, or Denial
or Anger, or Addiction
or either Workaholism, or Laziness

FIRST we acknowledge – that we need God to Transform us
At the very CORE of WHO we ARE

When King David – Came to grips with his Radical Need
to REPENT & RESPOND differently

he said in Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

***10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me.***

& THAT'S HOW WE have to start

We HAVE to start - with asking God to Create in us
a CLEAN HEART – a NEW HEART

& asking God to RENEW a Right Spirit within us

We've got to Recognize our Need – for the HOPE
that ONLY Jesus Christ can give us

FIRST – We've GOT to Be BORN AGAIN
INTO this **New life of HOPE** in Jesus Christ

& THEN – we can start - GROWING UP
in this **New Life of HOPE** in Jesus Christ

& Then - the Apostle Paul says

We Must LEARN - the **Response of HOPE**
In **EVERY Situation**

Turn over to Philippians 4:11–12 (NLT)

11 . . . (2nd half) *for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.*

12 *I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.*

TWICE Paul says – **I HAVE LEARNED**
how to be Content – in EVERY Situation

& NOTICE – That includes **GOOD Situations TOO**

These are God's Truths - we need to Learn to Live
In Every Situation - (Good or Not Good)

With whatever **I Have** – or **Don't have**
With **almost Nothing** – or with **Everything**
With a **Full Stomach** – or **Empty Stomach**
With **Plenty** – or with **Little**

Paul says in V.12

***I have learned* the secret of living in every situation**

& we would say – Great Paul, glad you've LEARNED it

Can you just **download** that to me - **txt me** – **msg me**
send me a **link on Facebook**

Cause I need THAT SECRET - QUICK

& The **APOSTLE PAUL** - & **THE N.T.** – **AND GOD**

all say . . . NO – You CANNOT get it - **QUICK**

If the Apostle who wrote 2/3 of the N.T. Had to LEARN IT
Then guess what

You & I are going to have to LEARN IT as well

Guys – being CONTENT
& Having HOPE in Every Situation

Does NOT come Naturally
It does NOT come Automatically

If the Apostle Paul had to LEARN IT
Then You & I are going to have to LEARN IT

HOW . . . HOW do we LEARN
this Life-Changing – Biblical HOPE?

We learn it

Right IN THE MIDST of our Difficulty
Right IN THE MIDST of our Trying Situations & Circumstances

We Learn HOPE & CONTENTMENT - BEST

By **BEING** in the **Presence of God** - & **WALKING with God**
THRU the Storms of Life

THIS is the SECRET

This is The SECRET
to Having Confident HOPE - in **EVERY Situation**

It's **Learning** to **Press into**
the **Presence of God** - in **EVERY Circumstance**

Because being In the **Presence of God**
(*Being in a Real & Growing Relationship with Him*)

Is where we will Find ALL that we need

to have Solid, Confident HOPE
in ANY situation this world can throw at us

if we will Genuinely & Intentionally
SEEK the **Presence of God**

Right In the **MIDDLE** of our **Circumstances**

If we will **Take EVERY EXPERIENCE**
as an **Opportunity** to **MEET God** in the **Midst** of it

To Sense what GOD may be doing

To **Hear** his **Voice**

To **Grow Closer** to **Him**

To **KNOW HIM better**

If we will intentionally SEEK to BE in His Presence
In the Midst of Every Circumstance

Then we WILL LEARN the SECRET
Of having Confident, Unshakable, Rock-Solid HOPE in God

WAY BACK in Deuteronomy

God told ISRAEL - that one day
they would be exiled into a foreign land

But – Listen Carefully

In Deuteronomy 4:29 – God says (ESV)

29 But from there (from that difficult circumstance) you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Apostle Paul LEARNING the SECRET
to HOPE & CONTENTMENT - in ANY situation

BY LEARNING

to **SEEK God** - & **SEE God** - & **TRUST God**
In **EVERY Situation**

& **By Believing** with **all** his **Heart**

that **God** was in **full control** and **fully AT WORK**
in **every - single - circumstance**

So much so that Paul could write in

2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Don't take on the world's View of HOPE

Don't simply HOPE for **Better Temporary Circumstances**
as you **turn the page** of the **calendar**

Instead – Let's LEARN the Secret
to True, Confident, Rock-Solid Biblical HOPE

→ → →

Seek God INTENSELY - & INTENTIONALLY

In every situation

Until he transforms you

at the very CORE of your Being

From Wishful hoping for better circumstances

To A Confident Expectation Based on Solid Certainty

That Your Heavenly Father - is The Almighty God

He has CARRIED you - thru YOUR YESTERDAY

He is AT WORK – In YOUR TODAY

He is OUT IN FRONT of YOU - for YOUR TOMORROW

& because of WHO God is

& because of Who YOU ARE to God . . .

it is WELL with your Soul

Let's Pray