

With God.... there is Hope

hope

noun: **hope**

a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen

“Hope” is commonly used to mean a wish: its strength is the strength of the person's desire. **But in the Bible hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness.**

Hope is a precious and wonderful thing. Without hope, men get desperate and will do most anything to escape their hopelessness. But, With hope, men can endure most anything, no matter how desperate their conditions become. Wise men appreciate the great value of hope.

Psalm 33:17-22

17

A horse is a vain **hope** for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.

18

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,
on those whose **hope** is in his unfailing love,

19

to deliver them from death
and keep them alive in famine.

20

We **wait** in **hope** for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

21

In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.

22

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we **put** our **hope** in you.

Pray

Have you ever noticed how hope and waiting seem to go hand in hand.

How many of you feel you are waiting on the Lord?

Waiting(hoping)on a break through, waiting on an answer to prayer, waiting on a miracle...Maybe you are just in a holding pattern in your life... waiting and hoping?

Just like David wrote in Ps.33:20 We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

In all honesty everyone of us that is a disciple of Christ is waiting. We are awaiting His return.

Hope in waiting is so important that David tells in verse 18 That the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love. And then in Vs. 22 May your unfailing love be with us ,Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Why would hope was such an important factor?

I believe it is because we are capable of a lot of things while we wait in hope. Waiting is hard, gets old, requires patience and endurance.

The enemy understands how powerful hope is and works hard to take it from us. He works hard to cause us to get weary and discouraged.

#1 My first point is -While we wait and hope don't fall asleep.

What about the story of the Ten Virgins? They were waiting on the bridegroom. Just like we are.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew **25** “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish and five were wise. **3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4** The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

When I have thought about this passage of the ten virgins. I was thought about the 5 good and 5 bad. The 5 that we’re prepared and the 5 that were not. But there is something else here to be observed and the is... All ten virgins fell asleep.

Falling asleep is what the enemy wants. Because when you are asleep you are rendered ineffective and unaware.

The enemy is working hard to cause the church to fall asleep. To become apathetic, unaware and ineffective. He wants to render the church powerless.

To fall asleep.. you get still, quit moving. Become comfortable in your surroundings.

God has called us to be movers and shakers. Not sitters and sleepers.

Falling asleep is one of the traps the enemy sets for us while we wait and hope.

Verse **22** says, May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we **put** our hope in you.

Put is action... When we are in motion or action that keeps us from sleeping. You can’t fall asleep when you “putting”

The bible says in **1 Peter 5:8, NIV** Be alert (be awake) and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

It is a whole lot easier for prowling lion to take me out if I'm sleeping.

Ephesians 6:18, NIV Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people.

If you are praying your not sleeping, if you are praying you are contending, if you are praying you are believing. If you are praying you are putting your hope in the Lord.

1 Peter 1:13, NIV Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set or (put) your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

In waiting and hoping we can sometimes become weary, tired or just plain worn out.

Galatians 6:9

9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

A Harvest of His unfailing love and strength. He meets us in our weakness.

In the hoping and waiting the enemy wants us to grow weary, he doesn't want us to reap a harvest.

The enemy has come to steal, kill and destroy. Steal the harvest, devour the believer and destroy the testimony of the Lord

Lisa Harper " To me the resounding takeaway from the parable of the ten virgins is this: Don't lose sight of the prize when the process gets hard, because He is coming back for us. May we seek to be content in Christ and **passionate about sharing Him with the spiritual sleepers** around us, all the while eagerly awaiting His return.

I think thats a great point. If we are actively sharing our faith with others or being an encouragement to another fellow believer we are not sleeping.

Sharing our testimonies with others is life giving and encouraging. It is truly an example of sharing hope with others or building hope up in others.

Its as if the Lord likes to be bragged on... when we tell our story, which is truly his story worked in us, his spirit shows up.

Just like the white chairs... they encourage us, build our faith up and give us hope.

The enemy will down play the importance of testimonies and sharing Christ with others. Because of the power in it.

In the waiting you will be tempted to fall asleep...Don't

What would have happened if the 5 virgins that were prepared hadn't fallen asleep? Maybe they would have noticed that the other 5 were not prepared or ready for the bridegrooms appearance.

#2 In the hoping and waiting don't serve other Gods

Exodus 32

1 When the people saw that **Moses was so long in coming down** from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." **3** So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "**Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.**" **6** So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

7 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become **corrupt**. **8** They have been **quick to turn away** from what I commanded them and have made

themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

In verse 32 it says When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, (when the waiting took to long.. when they began to lose hope) they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us.

What God says was quick in vs 8, man said was so long. Man said the idols were the gods who brought them out of Egypt. But God said this is corrupt.

They weren't completely turning away from Jehovah, they just wanted to create a tangible image and call it "The God who brought us out of Egypt"

They knew that this golden calf wasn't the God who parted the red sea, gave them manna and then turned the manna into quail. This is not the God they saw bring forth water out of a rock. And lets not forget the pillar by day and cloud by night.

How much has the Lord done for us, yet we want to turn to the tangle things. The enemy wants us to forget and turn to our own golden calf.

We may not make physical idols but in our hearts we may be looking to things of this world.

Idols are anything that takes the number one place in our hearts

It could be Family, money, things, activities, my personal comforts and preferences.

[Anything you love more, fear more, serve more, or value more than God is your idol.](#)

-- Adrian Rogers

Anything we prioritize over God is an idol.

I think honestly the biggest idol we face is self... our wants, our needs and desires. They wanted to see something...

But, if we place our hope continually in the Lord He becomes what we desire, He takes care of our needs, He takes care of our wants.

Psalm 37 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. ... For evil men will be cut off, but those who **hope** in the LORD will inherit the land.

There is an inheritance if we don't lose hope.

Psalm 33

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May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,
even as we **put** our hope in you.

Idols cant deliver me, deliver me from death or keep me alive in famine.
Idols cant be my help or shield. Idols cant bring me joy.

But my Jesus can..

#3 In the hoping and waiting we can be tempted to help God out.

Hagar and Ishmael

Gen. **16:1** Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; **2** so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. **3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. **4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

Lord its taking to long!!! Maybe I need to help you out.... This is how to create a hot mess express.

Story: About receiving the prophetic word about moving northwest. All our friends were saying "wow what are you going to do". And Josh is answer was we will see. If its God He will do it.

When we receive a word from God we don't have go make it happen. Instead we place our hope and trust in what he is going to do.

But God is so good...Despite Sarah's decision to help God out. God still honored the word given to them. God still gave them Isaac.

So even if you have created a hot mess express, He is still able to do what only He can do. Step back, repent, renew your hope in the Lord because He is able.

So how to we keep from sleeping?

How do we keep from making idols?

How do we keep ourselves from helping God out?

We have to continually put our hope in the Lord.β

***We as believers have the ability to stir hope up in one another.**

We stir hope up by sharing with each other what God has done in the past, what he is doing now and declaring what he is going to do in our future.

What if Abram had instead reminded Sarah of who God is. What if he said lets remember the word He gave us. Lets renew our hope in the Lord. Lets not give up... lets not get tired.

Revelation 12:11 And they ^aovercame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their ^btestimony.

If we want to stay hopeful, to be overcome we must share about what the Lord has done.

***We have the power of the Holy Spirit to stir up hope in ourselves**

David said in

Ps. 42:5 Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

And again in verse

11

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.

Speak to yourself. And tell yourself the truth about who God is. Tell yourself to put you hope in God. Tell yourself to praise Him, just like David did. Keep your focus on the Lord.

Because if you don't the enemy will begin to whisper doubt, despair and hopelessness in your ear.

Mans "Hope" is used to mean a wish and its strength is the strength of the person's desire.

But our hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and its strength is in His faithfulness.

