

Life on Life: Personal Ministry 201
January-May, 2021

1. ~~January 3~~ ~~***Why is Personal Ministry Needed in the Church?***~~
2. ~~January 10~~ ~~***Biblical Sufficiency and the Medical Model***~~
3. ~~January 17~~ ~~***Six Steps to Personal Ministry***~~
4. ~~January 24~~ ~~***Step One: Building Involvement***~~
5. ~~January 31~~ ~~***No Class***~~
6. ~~February 7~~ ~~***Step Three: Gather Data***~~
7. February 14 ***Step Two: Giving Hope***
8. February 21 ***Step Four: Interpret Data Biblically***
9. February 28 ***Step Five: Teach Biblically Applied to the Problem***
10. March 7 ***Step Six: Give Applicable Biblical Homework***

Life-on-Life: The Art of Personal Ministry (201)

Class Six – February 14, 2021

Step Two: Learning to Give Hope

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Heb. 11:13

Despair says “Circumstances tell us what is true about God.”

Hope says “God tells us what is true about circumstances.”

David Henderson / Discipleship Journal Nov.-Dec., 1999

I. Biblical hope

A. Hebrews 11:13-16 → Biblical Hope has several elements

They did not receive what was promised... but welcomed them from a distance...

1. Living by faith when they died
2. Did not yet receive what was promised
3. Saw and welcomed them from a distance
4. They realized they were foreigners and strangers on the earth
5. Looking for a country of their own
6. Could have returned to their former way of life (i.e., country)
7. Longing for a better one – a heavenly one
8. God is not ashamed to be called their God, and He has prepared a place for them

B. Hebrews 11:32-40 → Biblical hope is rooted in eternal promises, not earthly victory

1. People who lived by faith (Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, David, et al), v. 32
2. Experienced mighty earthly victories of the power of God (vv. 33-35)
3. Experienced deadly earthly defeats (vv. 36-38)
4. All received the approval and pleasure of God (v. 39)
5. He made provision for them for a heavenly rest, a heavenly blessing (v. 40)

C. Hebrews 6:19-20 – This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NASB)

1. Gives us internal stability, rootedness and protection.
2. Is absolute and assured.
3. Is tied to Jesus' position and authority.
4. Is tied to our going to heaven.
5. Comes from the very presence of God.

D. Centered and fixed on Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:13; I John 1:1-3)

Titus 2:13 – looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

E. Found in the Scriptures

Romans 15:4 – For whatever was written in earlier times, was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

II. Biblical hope has several benefits

- A. Romans 5:5 – **Hope doesn't disappoint** because it's rooted in God's love in the gospel.
- B. 1 Thess. 4:13 – **Hope gives us peace, rest and encouragement** even w/ death of loved one.
- C. 2 Cor. 4:8-12 – **Hope reminds us that we'll not be forsaken.** What is 'death' to us can become a source of life to others as we allow Christ to live in and be demonstrated by us.
- D. 2 Cor. 4:16-18 – **Hope keeps us from losing heart** because we're being renewed internally, increasing our glory.
- E. Ps. 33:18 – **Hope reminds us that we are being watched and cared for by the Lord.**
- F. Proverbs 10:28 – **Hope produces joy.**

III. Ways of Giving Hope

- A. Cast a vision of what God can do through His Word and His Spirit in people's lives.
 - Chaos to order to paradise
 - Example: Marriage with conflict, desire peace & love, point to Eph. 6:12 ("our struggle is not against flesh and blood") – spouse is not the enemy
- B. Teach the promises of God regarding His plan and His good plans for His children.
 - Christlikeness, Rom 8:28-29, what God considers "good" vs what we think is "good"
- C. Illustrate how victory is possible in the midst of human frailty and difficult circumstances.
 - 1. Hall of faith Hebrews 11 (esp v34-39) God is pleased by how we respond rather than how things turn out
 - 2. Personal testimony
 - 3. Testimony of hope
- D. Don't be manipulated by counselee's behavior.
- E. Use Biblical terminology to describe problems.
 - 1. Inaccurate labels can rob people of hope.
 - 2. *"Labeling sin as the problem enables them to know that there is a biblical solution and points out the gospel again as our hope"*
- F. Point them to the Word.
 - 1. Rom. 5:1-5
 - 2. Romans 8:18-35
 - 3. Gen. 50:20
- G. Give them a testimony.
 - 1. 2 Cor. 1:3-7
 - 2. 2 Cor. 11:22-29
- H. Point them to practical solutions – find a way
- I. Don't merely throw a verse at them... *talk it through*

- J. Let them know how long you think you can meet with them and anticipate finding the Lord to minister to them as they cooperate with the Lord (Philippians 2:12-13)

IV. What Biblical Hope is NOT

- 1. Not worldly “hope” or wish
- 2. Not the same as optimism
- 3. Biblical hope is present with no evidence that circumstances will improve
- 4. Not a cool drink or a soft pillow – self-centered comfort

V. Main Challenge for Believers: No matter the issues the believer faces the main challenge is losing their focus on, and their confidence in, the Lord and thereby falling away from His perfecting work in their lives. True lasting hope is only found vertically in Jesus, the One who is hope!

- 1. Matt 14:28-32 Peter walking on water
- 2. Key issue = Grace

VI. Finding Hope in unexpected places

- 1. Jesus’ temptation: I Cor 10:13 (worksheet & HW)
- 2. Beatitudes: Blessed - Oh how lucky! Blessed/Joyful/Happy all at once Matt 1-11
- 3. Warnings/Put Off/Put On: I’m not the only believer to struggle & God has provided a way out of sinful thoughts and behaviors

VII. “Giving Hope” – Open Discussion

- A. Share with your group your memory verse, Hebrews 11:6.
- B. *Approachability and Passport* article – share a few highlighted statements
- C. Why is biblical hope so important to share with someone who is struggling?
- D. Share a time when hope in Christ helped you through a difficult time.
- E. What benefit of biblical hope resonates with you in your walk with Jesus? Why?
- F. Can you think of any other ways to give or communicate hope to a counselee?

VIII. Homework

- A. Memorize Hebrews 11:13
- B. Complete the following chart (and use it when helping others in the future)
- C. Read and familiarize yourself with the “Giving Hope” handout... hope that comes from God’s encouragement when we encounter various temptations.

Biblical Examples of Hope and Despair

Passage	Person's Struggle	Response	Lesson
Genesis 37, 39, 40-50	Joseph sold into slavery, sexually harassed, unfairly accused, put in prison, made to serve a godless boss.	Gen. 50:20 – Saw that the sin of others was intended by God to be used for good	We can trust the sovereignty of God in any/all circumstances (Romans 8:28-29)
Ruth 1:11-13 Ruth 1:20-21 (Naomi)			
1 Samuel 30:1-6 (David)			
Job 2:9-10 (Job & his wife)			
Matthew 27:3- 10 (Judas)			
Acts 16:16-34 (Paul and Silas)			

Giving Hope

I Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

This verse gives you **Four Promises** that combat the **Four Most Common Lies** that Satan tells us when we're struggling in a trial:

God's Promises

Satan's Lies

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Your trial is not unique – 'common to man' | VS. No one else has ever gone through anything like this before! |
| 2. Your God is faithful – 'but God is faithful' | VS. God's not there for you; He's left you on your own for this one |
| 3. It's not more than you can handle
<small>'...not leave you to be tempted beyond what you are able... that you may be able to endure'</small> | VS. This is too much; no one can endure this |
| 4. There is a way out of this
<small>'but will with the temptation provide the way Of escape'</small> | VS. There's no way out; you're stuck |

Getting Commitment

Three things I'm going to need from you, if we're going to work together:

- 1.** I need a **Learner Spirit** from you – I need you to give me permission to speak truth into your life, if I see any area that is not in line with biblical truth
- 2.** I need you to do some **Homework** every time – this is not the 'Magic Hour'
- 3.** I need some **Time** – you didn't get in this situation overnight; we won't get out of it overnight. Typically I'll meet with someone between 12-14 weeks – sometimes a little more; sometimes a little less, depending on how hard they work.
- 4.** I need you to be **broken & desperate enough** to actually be willing to **change** instead of just going through the motions and talking about how hard it is

Can I expect these three things from each of you?