

High Hope Session 8 – Hope & Prayer

I. Introduction/review

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) – *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11 (GWT) – *I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope*

Series Review

A. God Wants us to have hope for the future.

B. Our future here and in Eternity – all in Him.

C. Hope will always face opposing winds.

D. Hope is the blueprint of our faith.

E. The Second Wind of Hope

II. The Hope/Prayer Connection

A. The Significance of Prayer

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)** – *Pray without Ceasing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) – *Pray Constantly.*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (CEV) – *Never Stop Praying.*

2. **Luke 18:1 (KJV)** – *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*
 - a. Prayer is in contrast to fainting.
 - b. Prayer is the key to not fainting.
If I don't want to faint, I need to pray.
 - c. **Faint Def** = Gr. To be utterly spiritless/ to be wearied out/ exhausted. To be weak and to faint.
 - d. **Last week we discussed the importance of catching the second wind.**
 - e. **Prayer = is connected to catching the second wind of hope and faith.** *Many times, I have caught my second wind of hope in a time of prayer.*
 - f. **Paul said, pray always/without ceasing.**
 - g. **Jesus said, pray always/and it will keep you from fainting/being given to exhaustion/losing heart/losing strength/becoming wearied out.**
 - h. **For Hope to have its complete work in my life, I must learn how to work my hope together with prayer.**

III. An Examples of Hope Renewal through Prayer

A. Habakkuk

1. Habakkuk lived in troubled times when sin was increasing all around him.
2. In prayer he questioned God about His judgment of those who seemed to be getting away with their sin.
3. When God showed him the things that were about to happen, he was filled with anxiety and fear.

4. **Habakkuk 3:16 (NLT)** – *I trembled inside when I heard this; my lips quivered with fear. My legs gave way beneath me, and I shook in terror. I will wait quietly for the coming day when disaster will strike the people who invade us.*
 - a. Habakkuk had every reason in the natural to lose his hope.
 - b. He didn't limit his prayer to just declaring the problem.
 - c. Many people's prayers are consumed with the problem.
 - d. Habakkuk took his prayer a step further.

5. **Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NLT)** – ¹⁷*Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty,* ¹⁸*yet I will rejoice in the LORD! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!*
 - a. **Rejoice** – *I will triumph in the Lord*
Habakkuk – All of these things are coming, but I will triumph in the Lord!
 - b. I will be **JOYFUL** = Joy Gr. Root – to spin around – under the influence of any violent emotion.
 - c. **Habakkuk was taking control of his emotions in prayer.**
He was driving out fear
He was choosing Joy.
 - d. **Habakkuk 3:18 (AMP)** – *Yet I will [choose to] rejoice in the LORD; I will [choose to] shout in exultation in the [victorious] God of my salvation!*
 - e. **Habakkuk 3:19 (AMP)** – *The Lord GOD is my strength [my source of courage, my invincible army]; He has made my feet [steady and sure] like hinds' feet and makes me walk [forward with spiritual confidence] on my high places [of challenge and responsibility].*
 - f. **Strength** = Ability, efficiency, force, army.
 - g. **Brenton Septuagint Translation** – *The Lord God is my strength, and he will perfectly strengthen my feet; he mounts me upon high places, that I may conquer by his song.*
 - h. **What's happening here?**
Habakkuk is renewing his hope.
He is renewing his faith.

He is renewing his strength.

How? By declaring his HOPE in prayer/Worship.

IV. Conclusion

A. When the issues of life become tough, I will not faint.

I will not lose my strength.

B. I Will pray!

C. I will stir up my hope by declaring hope in the Lord!

D. David knew the secret of Declaring Hope in prayer.

Palms 3:1-8 (ERV) – ¹LORD, I have so many enemies. So many people have turned against me. ²They say to themselves, “God will not rescue him!” Selah ³But you, LORD, protect me. You bring me honor; you give me hope. ⁴I will pray to the LORD, and he will answer me from his holy mountain. Selah ⁵I can lie down to rest and know that I will wake up, because the LORD covers and protects me. ⁶So I will not be afraid of my enemies, even if thousands of them surround me. ⁷LORD, get up! My God, come rescue me! If you hit my enemies on the cheek, you will break all their teeth. ⁸LORD, the victory is yours! You are so good to your people.

E. Lord, I might be in trouble now, BUT

You are Good.

You are strong.

You are faithful.