

High Hopes Session 3 – Against the Wind

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*

A. Review

1. The Lord has thoughts about me and my future.
 - a. Thoughts of peace vs disaster.
 - b. Plans to give me a future filled with hope.

2. Hope is a necessary part of every life, saved or unsaved.
 - a. Hope is where my dreams reside.
 - b. Hope is my goal setter for my future.
 - c. Hope keeps me moving forward.

3. Two Dimensions of Hope
 - a. Hope that is connected to this world/natural hope.
 - b. Hope that is connected to the unseen world/ spiritual hope.
 - c. Your victory or defeat will largely be determined by which world holds the most influence over your life.
 - Are you more influenced by this world or the unseen world?
 - d. Abraham against hope, believed in hope – Romans 4:18
When natural hope ran out/exhausted, Abraham had another reason to hope. His hope was more in the unseen world than that which he could see.
 - e. Abraham had to RESIST hopelessness and EMBRACE hope on another level. The hope of another dimension.
 - f. There will always be reasons to lose hope.

- g. The winds of hopelessness will blow into our life through circumstances, but sometimes you must go against the wind. *Hope against the wind.... Winds of despair, hopelessness, worry, fear, anxiety. Etc.*

II. Against the Wind

A. Against the Wind definition

1. To go in the direction opposite to the direction of the Wind.
2. Personal Example: Driving Against the Wind – South Dakota Prairies.
3. Bob Seger “Against the Wind” looking back over his life he realizes that he was always running against the wind. Everyone is running against the wind in his song.
4. There will be those who just go with the flow of wherever the winds of this world take them.
Winds of our culture/Winds of adversity/Winds of defeat/Winds of pressure
5. There will be some who will dare go against the wind. Abraham went against the wind of hopelessness and dared to press in by faith to have hope against hope.

B. Wind in Scripture

1. **Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJV)** – ²⁴“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the **rain descended**, the **floods came**, and **the winds blew** and beat on that house; and **it did not fall**, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷and **the rain descended**, the **floods came**, and the **winds blew** and beat on that house; and

*it fell. **And great was its fall.**"* ²⁸And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, ²⁹for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

- a. Rains, Floods and Winds come to all with no exemption.
- b. Storms which include rains, floods and wind.
- c. The goal of the storm is to cause a fall.
- d. **Fall** = to ultimately destroy or to be moved down from a higher place to a lower place. *Neither are good.*
- e. Metaphorically, the house represents our life.
Our life will encounter storms.
Our life can be affected by the storms.
Our life could be destroyed by some storms.
Our life could be moved from a higher place to a lower place.
- f. We need to know how to respond to the storms/winds to keep our life from being destroyed or brought down.

2. **Two Types of Winds Encountered by Everyone**

Everyone encounters the wind.

- Assaulting Winds – Hurricane Force Winds – Winds that suddenly blow into your life with little to no warning.
In your face wind.
Leukemia was an assaulting sudden wind that blew into my life.
- Subtle Winds – winds that may go unnoticed for a while. Winds that slowly begin to blow and increase over time. Winds that do not appear to be an issue until its nearly too late.
Depression was a subtle wind that blew into my life – 2003.
- **Winds Definition** = Emblem of instability
The wind comes into your life to bring instability in your life.
Instability is a curse in the O.T.
Instability = erratic behavior, unpredictable decisions and choices occur.
Those who are unstable, are thrown off course – their life doesn't get to the places God intends. They fail to receive the

fulness of what God plans for their life.

3. **The Goal of the Wind** – To move you – to knock your house down – to bring your life down – to knock you off course – to keep you from reaching your destination –

Matthew 14:22-24 (NKJV) – ²²Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. ²³And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. ²⁴But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

Contrary Def = hostile – working against them, not for them. The wind was an enemy to them working to keep them from going where they were supposed to go.

*Have you ever encountered a HOSTILE WIND?
Circumstances/people/family/health/spiritual?*

The winds come into your life to keep you from getting where you are supposed to go.

Matthew 14:25-31 (NKJV) – ²⁵Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.” ²⁸And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” ²⁹So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰**But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”** ³¹And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. The Presence



of the Wind working against Peter, kept him from finishing his water walk of faith.

4. The winds of storms are blowing to steal your hope.

Hope is the goal of my faith.

Without hope, my faith has nothing to reach for.

Without hope my faith will shipwreck.

Shipwreck is never good.

- Shipwreck means my ship/life has stopped sailing – going forward.
- Shipwreck means my ship/ life has begun to sink.
- Sinking means, my life is going down/not up – not forward.
- Sinking is not the will of God for my life.

- a. News
- b. People
- c. Rumors
- d. Social media
- e. Politics

5. What is in the wind?

There's Something in the air/wind.

Take notice of what's in the wind.

What is in the words?

What is in the report?

What is in your thoughts?

What is in that temptation?

Does this have the potential to steal my hope?

Does this have the potential to knock my life off course?

If so, It is the contrary wind – you must go against it.

- a. Discouragement
- b. Hopelessness
- c. Despair
- d. Depression
- e. Anxiety

- f. Worry
- g. Fear
- h. Helplessness

6. Go Ahead, Close the Window!

How do you go against these winds?

a. Stop making the wind your #1 Observation!

Stop observing the Wind!

Some people are obsessed with the wind.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NKJV) – *He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap*

b. Start making the Word of God the focus of your life!

Matthew 7:24-25 (NKJV) – ²⁴*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

c. Allow the Word of God to Rule over your Natural Senses

This is what Abraham did when he had hope against all hope.

Matthew 7:28 (NKJV) – *And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching*

Astonished –

English Language – impressed or amazed

Gr. – to strike out or expel by a blow

– To cast off by a blow or to drive out.

– To be knocked out of their mind

It blows my mind – to be extremely impressed, overwhelmed or excited.

So moved/So excited/ that the words they just heard knocked them out of their natural sense of hopelessness into a faith sense of hope and

- We need to be so moved by the word of God that the contrary winds have no control over us.
- The winds of – bad reports/rumors/news/are no match for the strong anchor of hope in the Word of God.
- My house is anchored in the hope of God’s Word.
- I choose to hope/against hope.
- I’m not moving with the winds of this season. I’m daring to go in the other direction/ against the wind.