

High Hopes Session 5 – Be the Light of Hope

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. Last Session – What has your attention?

- a. What you give attention to will affect you/your heart.
- b. From the heart, proceed the issues of life.
- c. What you give attention to will affect how you deal with the issues of life.
- d. If you pay attention to all of the rumors of this world, you will lose hope, be discouraged, and move toward destruction.

2. Intro to Session 4

- a. The first three sessions in this series have been hope builders with the focus on building our hope on the right things.
- b. Today's message is a sub-topic of hope.
Today, we will focus on what we need to do with all of this hope that we have been embracing.
- c. Be the Light of Hope!
Do you know anyone who needs hope?
Do you know anyone who is struggling with hopelessness?
- d. We have the ability to allow HOPE to shine forth in the world where hopelessness is abounding.

II. Be the Light of Hope

A. Isaiah 60:1-3 (NKJV) – ¹*Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. ³The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

1. **Arise Definition** – Stand up – stand out- be victorious
 - a. Arise on the scene.
 - b. To be fixed, to be proven,
 - c. To be Valid – well grounded, justifiable, relevant and meaningful.
 - d. The people of God are to arise – stand up, stand out as victorious people that are fixed and proven- we are valid, well grounded, justified and relevant in our actions.
2. **Light** – good fortune, victory, deliverance and favor
 - a. When we arise on the scene, what will people see?
 - b. They will see our good fortune, our victory, our deliverance and favor.
3. **Glory** – His honor, his majesty, His wealth – provision
 - a. God’s blessing is going to be upon your life.
 - b. God’s blessing isn’t hidden; it will be seen as glory arising upon you.
4. **Why?** Why is all of this goodness coming upon you?
 - a. Darkness will be upon the land.
 - b. Great darkness upon the people.
 - c. **Darkness Def** – Disorder, Confusion, Uncertainty
Is there any disorder, confusion or uncertainty going on today?
5. **But the Lord will arise over you – vs 3.**
 - a. His glory will be seen on you.
 - b. The kings shall come to your brightness.
 - c. There will be an attraction to you.

- d. The light that is on you will attract those who are outside of the covenant – the unsaved. *Not everyone will be attracted, but many will.*
- e. What is this attraction? It is the light of the blessing of God that is upon us. *Something uniquely different than what is seen in the lives of others.*

B. In the Greatest Hour of Darkness, the Light has the Greatest Opportunity.

1. Have you ever been in a cave with the lights out?
2. When it is extremely dark, the slightest hint of light stands out.
3. The darker it gets, the greater the opportunity for the light.

C. The 2021 Advantage

1. Many would say that we are living in the most extreme darkness that they have ever experienced.
2. Darkness = uncertainty, disorder, confusion, hopelessness, desperation
3. **QUOTE:** “Stress from COVID-19 — along with stress related to health care, the economy, racism and the presidential election — is seriously threatening the mental health of our country, particularly our youngest generation, according to a new national survey from the American Psychological Association”
4. 8 out of 10 adults say the corona virus pandemic is a significant source of stress in their lives.
5. 3 in 5 adults say that the issues America faces are overwhelming to them.

6. Changes in school, loneliness and uncertainty about the future are major stressors for adolescents.
7. While all of this is BAD NEWS, the GOOD NEWS is this;
We as the children of light have the greatest opportunity to shine in our lifetime.
 - a. People are looking for the light.
 - b. People are looking for some hope.
 - c. Isaiah didn't say that we would be able to do away with the dark.
 - d. Isaiah said that we would be able to offer something in the dark that would attract people to us/ to the Lord.

D. You are the Light of the World

1. **Matthew 5:14 (NKJV)** – *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*
 - a. You Are – not God, not Jesus – but YOU
Jesus in YOU – They world only sees the light of God in you.
 - b. You are the light of the world, not the church.
 - c. Your light will attract those in the world.

2. Is your light darkness?

Matthew 6:23 (NLT) – *But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!*

- a. Your eye affects your whole body – last weeks' lesson on *what are you giving attention to.*
- b. It is possible for the light that you think you have to actually be darkness.
- c. There are people in the church who think they are filled with light, but they have actually been overtaken by the darkness.
- d. Darkness – disorder, confusion and uncertainty.
- e. **If your life is filled with DARKNESS, you certainly cannot be the light of HOPE.**

3. The Light/Darkness Test

- a. Are your actions more associated with confusion, uncertainty and disorder than with the peace of God?
- b. Are your actions more connected to FAITHLESSNESS than a life filled with faith?
- c. Are your words more connected to confusion, uncertainty and hopelessness than words of hope, confidence, peace, assurance based upon God's word?

4. When you talk uncertainty and hopelessness, you are not a light of hope.

- a. Most are not drawn to that – *with the exception of those addicted to negativity.*
- b. Most are attracted to someone whose words are filled with HOPE and encouragement.
- c. Children of Hope should be filled with Hope.
- d. Children of Hope should not have their mouths filled with darkness/confusion, uncertainty, disorder.
- e. We have been building hope in the previous weeks at GFC, but that hope is not complete until it is SHARED.
- f. I plan to share hope
Embrace the HOPE PLAN GFC!

III. Conclusion

A. Plan to be the light of Hope.

1. I plan to be the light in this city.
2. I plan to be the light in my family.
3. I plan to be different from those without hope.
4. My actions will be different.
5. My re-actions will be different.
6. My words will be different.
7. My conversation will be different.
8. I will act in hope.
9. I will speak in hope.
10. Hope will be seen upon me.

11. Hope will attract others to what/who is in me.
12. My hope will be a testimony to the goodness of my God.

B. The Attraction

1. **Paul and Silas response of Hope in Jail attracted the Jailer to Salvation.**
2. **Paul learned that everything that happened to him from the darkness was an opportunity to turn the light on.**
3. **Paul's Hope when the ship went down.**
4. **Paul didn't respond in a normal way**
Because his response was different, people were attracted to him. They wanted what he had – that enabled him to go through things that normally would destroy others
 - *Shipwrecks*
 - *Lions*
 - *Stonings*
 - *Beatings*
 - *Imprisonments – singing and praying vs quitting.*
Torn between life and death
5. Normal response doesn't attract it is expected.
6. An Abnormal response of hope will attract because that is not what people expect of us.