

## Never Lose your Hope

**Hebrews 6:9-12 (NKJV)** – *<sup>9</sup>But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. <sup>10</sup>For God is not unjust to forget your work and <sup>[a]</sup>labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. <sup>11</sup>And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>that you do not become <sup>[b]</sup>sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

- **Hebrews 6:11 (NIV)** – *We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized*
- **Full assurance of hope to the end = receiving what you are hoping for.**
- **Show diligence – (persistent work or effort) – until the end so what you hope for will be fully realized**
- **CONTRAST – It is possible to lose hope – so that what you hope for is never realized or experienced.**
- Hope is very important!
- Where there is no hope
  - Joy is lost
  - Peace is lost
  - Expectation is lost
  - Dreams are aborted
  - Depression sets in
  - Anxiety rules and reigns
  - When you lose all hope – you begin to die within
- Never lost your Hope!

### I. The Important Role of Hope

#### A. What is Hope?

*Hope is more than simply wishing that things will change.*

*Bible hope is directly connected to our faith in God's supernatural provision in all circumstances.*

1. Basic Definition – a desire accompanied by expectation or belief in fulfillment

2. Hope begins with a desire –
  - a. Desires for a good future
  - b. Desires for a career, family, home, etc.
  - c. Desires for good health
  - d. Desires for a long, blessed life
  - e. Early in life we begin to form our desires list.  
*Dreams, visions, desires that we want to see accomplished in life*
  
3. Hope is accompanied by expectation
  - a. Hope becomes a driving force toward our desires
  - b. Hope moves by expectancy *I expect* – \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. When hope is lost;
  - a. No dreams exist/dreams are lost
  - b. No expectation of things to come to pass or change.  
*This is just how it is and how things are going to be.  
I have come to accept it!*
  - c. We settle for the attitude that nothing can be accomplished/nothing can change/this is all there is/we must accept things as they are.
  - d. Hopelessness is never a good place to be!

## **B. Many are losing hope in these uncertain times.**

1. By the world's standard these are very uncertain times
  - a. **Uncertain Times Meaning** – insecure, lack of predictability, doubtful, inability to place or have confidence, unknown, not to be depended upon, unreliable, not sure.
  - b. **We don't know from day to day**
  
2. Learning to deal with the issues of the hour
  - a. COVID-19  
*How many will test positive this week?  
What does tomorrow hold?  
Will businesses close again?  
Will the kids get back to school? How?*

b. Protest, violence, crime  
*Will our cities every be back to normal?*  
*Will the violence ever end?*

c. What does the future hold?  
*Will the economy recover?*  
 Will things ever be back to normal?  
 The new norm.

3. Many are losing hope/feeling hopeless
  - a. Increased anxiety
  - b. Increased depression
  - c. John Muir Medical Ctr. “There were more deaths from suicide during the quarantine period than from COVID-19”.
  - d. Anxiety and depression up three fold since the pandemic began.

### **C. The Body of Christ is not to be without Hope!**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- a. We must be reminded that we are not of this world, we are of another Kingdom which is always based on the certainty of the Word of God.
- b. Torn between two Kingdoms

## **II. The Hope/Faith Connection is a Spiritual Thing!**

**A. Hebrews 10:23 (KJV) – *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)***

1. **Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)** – Let us hold fast to the profession of our Hope
2. Some other version say hope. Why?
3. Hope and Faith work hand in hand.

**Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)** – *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

**Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** – *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

4. One doesn't work without the other.
5. Hope is the goal setter of our faith.
6. Faith goes after the goal.
7. If you have hope and no faith – you will never see the reality of what you are hoping for.
8. If you have faith but no hope – your faith has nothing to pursue.
9. When you lose hope, you have shut down faith because faith has nothing to believe for.

*Without faith it is impossible to please God!*

*Faith must have HOPE as a goal!*

*We actually need faith and hope to please God!*

10. As the people of God, we are to;
  - a. Live by faith
  - b. Walk by faith
  - c. Stay in faith
  - d. Loss of hope is a warning sign that our faith could be in trouble
  - e. To guard our hope is also to guard our faith!
  - f. Never lose Hope!

## B. Holding to the Profession of Faith/Hope

1. The profession is what is coming out of our mouth
2. Notice, it doesn't say hold fast to faith or hope but to the profession of it.
3. We need to guard our mouth.
  - a. Are we speaking hopelessness?
  - b. Are we speaking uncertainty?
  - c. Are we speaking hope and faith?
  - d. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)** – <sup>6</sup>*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*
  - e. To speak of God's faithfulness and His promises is to keep hope alive!
  - f. Everybody is talking! What are you talking about?
  - g. Focusing your conversation on the news events of the hour is a seed for hopelessness – for every seed there is a harvest!
  - h. Focusing your conversation on the Word of God/ Promises of God is a seed for HOPE/FAITH.

**Romans 10:17 (KJV)** – *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Faith doesn't come by hearing; Fox news, CNN, MSNBC, The COVID reports, The Governor, The President, Nancy Pelosi, Mitch McConnell,

## C. Various scriptures on Hope

### 1. Our hope is in God!

**Psalm 71:5 (KJV)** – *For thou art my hope, O LORD God: thou art my trust from my youth.*

**Psalm 146:5 (KJV)** – *Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:*

- a. Hope in the God that has never failed
- b. Hope in the God that always comes through
- c. Hope in the God who has an answer for all things
- d. Hope in the God who is on my side
- e. I need to be reminded daily of where my hope lies

## 2. My Hope is in His Word/Promises

**Psalm 119:81 (NLT)** – *I am worn out waiting for your rescue, but I have put my hope in your word.*

***NOTE:*** *In the midst of uncertain times, I have found an answer – I put my hope in your word!*

**Psalm 119:114 (KJV)** – *Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.*

***NOTE:*** *In the midst of everything – I have a hiding place – I have a Shield – because my hope is in the Lord!*

**Psalm 130:5 (KJV)** – *I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*

***Note:*** *To wait – to expect – I expect breakthrough from these present circumstances because my hope is in the Lord!*

## III. Closing Examples

### A. Abraham believed in hope against all hope

**Romans 4:18 (NIV)** – *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be.*

1. Faith maintains hope when everything appears to be hopeless.
2. Abraham was able to keep his hope alive because his hope wasn't in natural things but completely built upon the promise he had received from God – The word of God!

## **B. Paul on the sinking ship**

**Acts 27:20 (NIV)** – *When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved*

**Note:** *Paul was speaking in regard to everyone else on board the ship.*

**Acts 27:21-25 (NIV)** – <sup>21</sup>*After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. <sup>22</sup>But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. <sup>23</sup>Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup>and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup>So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me*

1. Paul was in a hopeless situation/when the ship is going down it is hopeless in the natural world.
2. Paul had a Word from the Lord! *Do not be afraid, you must stand before Caesar and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you*
3. Paul judged the Word of the Lord faithful and True

**Acts 27:44 (KJV)** – *And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.*

4. **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NIV)** – <sup>8</sup>*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*
  
5. **2 Timothy 3:10-11 (NIV)** – <sup>10</sup>*You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, <sup>11</sup>persecutions, sufferings-what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the LORD rescued me from all of them.*
  
6. **Paul to Timothy**  
*Timothy, there will be issues, trouble, persecution, BUT DON'T LOSE HOPE! The same God that rescued me is the same God that will see you through!*
  
7. **Your God will see you through!**
  
8. **Never Lose Your Hope**