

## **TRUSTING GOD'S TIMING IN YOUR LIFE**

Ryland Walter | December 30-31, 2023

Week 5: Faint Not (When You Feel Like Giving Up)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. <sup>19</sup> This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Hebrews 6:18-19 (NLT)

### **HOPE**

**H** — \_\_\_\_\_ fast to God

Worry: \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

### **PRAY FIRST**

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting  
January 7-27, 2024

Pray First Sermon Series / Weekend Worship Services  
Pray First Guide (Includes prayer models, prayer resources,  
and a Guide to Fasting)  
Daily Prayer Emphasis & Bible Reading Plan  
[www.rockbrook.org/prayer](http://www.rockbrook.org/prayer)

**O** — \_\_\_\_\_ within God's purpose

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

### **ALIGN**

Aligning Your Life To God's Will  
February — March, 2024

Have you ever noticed how much energy we put into getting things in our life aligned?

- A mechanic aligns your tires to ensure your car doesn't pull to the left or right so you can stay on course.
- A chiropractor uses techniques to get your body aligned so you can experience relief.
- A physical therapist uses stretches and exercises to get your body aligned so that part of your body can be stable.
- A conductor aligns a group of musicians so they can play in time.
- A doctor looks at the systems of your body to see if they are aligned so you can be healthy.

Direction, relief, stability, timing and health all come from alignment. However, throughout your life, things happen to knock you out of alignment with God's will. Where do you go and what do you do to get back in alignment with God?

In this spiritual growth emphasis, we'll look at God's word to see what God says are his core values for people, and his vision for a healthy church. What's amazing is, His purposes for the church and for our lives... align. Like two cogs working together, because the church is made up of people who are believing in Jesus.

This world is knocking you out of alignment. Let's get realigned to what Christ building, and becoming who he's calling us to become.

**P** — \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace of God

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:3 (NIV)

**E** — \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what happens

Don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. James 1:4 (TLB)

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. <sup>4</sup> And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:4 (NLT)

I will not die; instead, I will live  
to tell what the Lord has done. Psalm 118:17 (NLT)

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## FAINT NOT (WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP)

Talk-it-Over Notes | December 30-31, 2023

### REVIEW IT

God wants to give us confident hope. Hope is what helps us continue to see from God's perspective and live by faith. However, hope, is not wishing something will come true. Hope is based on the oath of God. Hope, in the Bible, is presented as fact — confident expectation — because of who God is. This hope is not based on our feelings or our yesterday, but anchored on God's promises. Even in a world that's not perfect, we know that God is still in control. **There is hope!**

- H — holding fast to God
- O — operating within God's purpose
- P — purity in the grace of God
- E — enduring no matter what happens

*This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.  
It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)*

**Spend some time in the Word: Read Romans 15.**

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. If we are not anchored to God, we can easily drift without realizing it. Share how remaining tethered to your faith has helped you from drifting too far off course. Describe the feeling you experienced when your anchor line became taut and brought you back to the rhythms that keep you connected.
2. Our easy access to 24-hour news cycles can oversaturate us with worry. How can putting our hope in God keep us from dwelling on the things that we really don't have control over? How is this practice going for you? What might you need to do to change your focus?
3. Building our lives on things that can be easily lost (money, things, positions, etc.) is a shaky way to live. Our character cannot be taken away. In what ways has operating your life within God's purpose given you a stronger foundation? How has God led you to develop your character over this last year?

### ACT ON IT/PRAY ABOUT IT

Hope gives you the power to say NO to the one thing we all have in our lives that we are powerless to overcome. Remember that God is a forgiver. Confess your struggles to Him. Ask God to help you to rediscover the hope He promises to assist you to endure no matter what happens. God's promises are immovable, even when hidden in the fog.

Make plans to participate in the upcoming **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting** and the **Aligning Your Life to God's Will** church-wide spiritual growth emphasis. Hope gives us the strength to go on; together with your church family, we can experience and live out that hope.