

Hope Renewed, 7/8-7/9 2017

- Hope is powerful
- Hope is essential for any human being to thrive
- Few things more debilitating than hopelessness
- Proverbs 18:14 tells us A man's spirit can endure sickness, but who can survive a broken spirit? Who can survive hopelessness?
- In Proverbs 13:12 we find that hope deferred makes the heart sick. Waiting long periods of time for something that we want can break us down over time. It can make our heart sick. We need hope.
- God is called the God of hope. He sees you. He is moved with compassion toward you, and even now is working behind the scenes on your behalf.
- We live in a time and a society where hopelessness is rampant.
- Scripture tells us that those who forget God have no hope, (Job 8:13) and unfortunately, over the last several decades our country has been led to take significant steps away from God. As we have continued down this path we have seen a rise in hopelessness. Those who forget God have no hope. And now this hopelessness has reached epidemic proportions.

Rick Warren shared the traits of a nation that forgets God:

“In a nation that forgets God, Wealth is idolized, truth is minimized, life is trivialized, abortion is legalized, Television is vulgarized, Advertising is sensualized, Everything is sexualized and commercialized, Our consciences have been desensitized and anesthetized. Education is secularized, free markets are monopolized, politics and races are polarized, sports is scandalized, morals and ethics are liberalized. In entertainment crime is glorified, immorality is popularized, drugs are legitimized. Sin is glamorized, the courts are paralyzed, the breakup of the family is rationalized. Manners are uncivilized. Christians are demonized. And God is marginalized. It’s no wonder people don’t have any hope.”

- Great hope in the Church/great hopelessness out in the world. We need to share our hope
- Biblical hope vs. Worldly hope
- Worldly hope - Do you think the rain will hold off? I hope so. That kind of hope has no basis in fact. Biblical hope is different and far superior to that kind of hope.
- Biblical Hope can be defined as: **The confident anticipation of the believer to see God do what He promised. Both in the world and in their life. Both now and in the future.**
- Biblical hope is rooted firmly in the fact that God is trustworthy.
- Difference between faith and hope. Faith is complete trust in Jesus. We believe that he died on the Cross for our sins

and was raised from the dead on the third day and so we put our trust in him regarding our eternal destiny. Hope is built on faith. Hope springs out of faith. **Because** what we believe about Him is true, we can now have a confident anticipation that we will see God do all these things we read about in the Bible.

- When a mom promises her child he is going to have an amazing birthday, and that child hears his mom make this promise, he believes it. That's faith. **The mom says it, and the child believes it.** Now in the days leading up to his birthday, the child can't stop thinking about how awesome it's going to be. He is confidently anticipating seeing the things that were promised to him actually take place.

That's hope

- If you have put your trust in Jesus it is your birth right to live a hope-filled life
- 3,573 promises – God is a God who delights in making and keeping His promises to us. We have over 3,573 reasons to be hopeful
- 5 keys to break out of despair. 5 keys to go from hopeless to hope-filled.

1. Key #1. Know that God sees what you are going through

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Genesis 16 – Hagar: Sarah gives Hagar to Abraham.

Abraham gets Hagar pregnant. Hagar gets proud that she can give Abraham a child when Sarah could not. Sarah gets

angry about Hagar being proud and so she begins to persecute Hagar. Sarah treats her so harshly, that Hagar runs away into the desert. Hagar ends up in the desert with Abraham's unborn child in her womb, feeling hopeless. But then God shows up. God instructs her to go back home and assures her that He is with her and will take care of her. Hear Hagar's response. In Gen 16:13 it says that Hagar ***"gave a name to the LORD who spoke to her. She called him "You are the God who sees me..."*** NlrV And God sees you. He is not passive. He is not aloof. He is full of compassion for you. Even when it feels like you're all alone. God is right there and He sees what's going on

2. **Key #2 - Become a promise person.** There are over 3,500 promises in the Bible but they do us no good unless we appropriate them to our life. More on this later
3. **Key #3 Tune into what God is saying.** God is always speaking and he has a direct word of encouragement for you right now. He will speak to you through His Word. He will speak to you through His Spirit.
 - a. Disconnect from the world
 - b. Clear distractions out of your mind
 - c. Tell God ALL your concerns
 - d. Wait attentively for Him to speak to you
 - e. Write down what He says so you can remember
4. **Key #4 Look for the roadway.** Isaiah 43:19 God promises the nation Israel that He will make a roadway in the wilderness for them. In other words – God will make a

way, where there seems to be no way. God has a pathway out of the situation you are in. Take that first step.

5. **Key #5 – Bring somebody else hope.** Many times our breakthrough occurs when we give selflessly to others. Look for somebody to help. Look for somebody to encourage.

Let's zero in on Key #2. Become a promise person. 3,573 promises in the Bible, but how do we appropriate them? Hebrews 4:2 tells us that in order for God's Word to profit us, it has to be mixed with faith. What does that mean? It means, when you come across these precious promises in the Bible, you claim them for your life. Make the promise personal to you. This is a fun and exciting part of the life of the believer. Standing on the promises of God.

*****Your Bible study time is not finished until you ask "Is there a promise here for me to claim?"***

Psalm 23 – 11 Hope-filled, Power-filled promises that can radically change your life. Internalize them. Speak them over yourself and your loved ones. Mix faith with the promises

Promise #1: The Lord is my Shepherd – Jesus is the good Shepherd. A Good Shepherd takes good care of His sheep.

Claim the promise. Jesus is my Shepherd, He is looking out for me and taking care of me

Promise #2: I shall not lack. This is a promise of provision. Claim the promise by stating, because Jesus is my Shepherd, I will always have everything I need

Promise #3: He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. This is a promise of, refreshment, and rest. If you are stressed out and anxious, claim this promise by thanking God for supernatural rest and peace

Promise #4: He restores my soul. God is in the restoration business. On this one, thank Him for supernatural restoration of your mind, emotions, hope, and anything else in your life that needs restoration

Promise #5: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. This is a promise of guidance. If you follow the Good Shepherd He will lead you away from evil and all the pain that it causes. His desire in this is to protect His sheep from wolves

Promise #6: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; This is a promise of protection. We live in a fallen world. Thank God for His protection over you and pray for His protection over your loved ones

Promise #7: Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. The Shepherd's rod and staff are sources of comfort, protection, and guidance. Whenever necessary He may use the rod for correction also, but even His correction is gentle and always used for our good in the long run

Promise #8: He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Not only do we live in a fallen world, but Ephesians 6 tells us that we also wrestle against wicked fallen beings. This promise tells us that even though we have spiritual enemies, we can still enjoy victory over them. Based on Jesus' victory we can take authority over them and receive God's blessing right in the middle of enemy territory!

Promise #9: He has anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. Oil in the Bible often is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. One of the greatest promises we have and one of the greatest reasons we can have hope in our day to day life is because of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. Claim this promise by thanking God for the Holy Spirit and asking Him to fill you afresh every day

Promise #10: Goodness and lovingkindness follow me all the days of my life. Thank God for showering His goodness and lovingkindness on you. Ask Him to experience and understand this more

Promise #11: I will dwell in His house forever – The ultimate source of our hope. This life is but a breath. A vapor. Here today and gone tomorrow. But ultimately, we will spend age

upon age with God in eternity. Hebrews 6:19 tells us that because of what Jesus did we now have hope as an anchor to our souls. Hope for today. Hope for tomorrow. Hope in this life. But ultimately in the life to come.

As the hymn writer tells us. Our hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' Blood and righteousness.

(Psalms 42:11 NASB) Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.