

THE MINISTRY OF LIFE 6 - LIVING FROM ABUNDANT HOPE

Rom. 15:13 *Now may the **God of hope** fill you with all **joy and peace in believing**, that you may **abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit**.*

I. TO MINISTER LIFE TO SOMEONE YOU MUST ABOUND IN HOPE

“The person with the most influence in the room is the person with the most hope” - Steve Backlund

A. LIVING IN HOPE IS OFTEN UPHILL - It's U-pick not special delivery

- ILLUSTRATION -**DREAMS**- Art Harvest, BookPublishing, Bethel Faire

1. NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY IS PART OF HOPE BECAUSE THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MYSTERY INVOLVED IN KNOWING GOD

ROMANS 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the **redemption of our body**.²⁴ For we were saved in this hope, but **hope that is seen is not hope**; for why does one still hope for what he sees?²⁵ But if **we hope for what we do not see**, we eagerly wait for it with **perseverance**.*

- HOPE BUILDS ENDURANCE TO TRUST GOD FOR THINGS WE HAVEN'T KNOWN, SEEN OR EVEN UNDERSTOOD HOW WILL BE

Rom. 8:26 ***Likewise** (IN THE SAME WAY) the Spirit **also helps** in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings** which cannot be uttered.²⁷ Now **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God**.*

- ILLUSTRATION - ***I often pray in tongues for BURDENS** that come. Sometimes I have a sense of the matter, other times it is a mystery. **IT'S ALL BASED ON A DESIRE, A HOPE TO SEE CHANGE***

ROMANS 4:18 MESSAGE *When everything was hopeless, **Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said He would do.***

B. HOW DO WE HOLD ONTO HOPE AS WE GO THROUGH LIFE?

1. **RENOUNCE LIES ABOUT HOPE:** “Any area in our life that does not glisten with hope is an area where we are believing a lie” - **Frangipane**
 - **WE CAN'T LIVE ON STANDBY.** We must **TRUST** in something to live in hope of good things to come (**GOOD IS NOT EASY**).
2. **SCRIPTURE CULTIVATES HOPE WHEN WE BELIEVE AND PRACTICE IT**

Rom. 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our **learning**, that we through the **patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.**

3. **PROMISES AND HOPE ARE INTRINSICALLY LINKED.** **PROMISES MAKE YOU HOPE.** IT IS THE STRAIN AND DISCOMFORT OF **HOLDING SOMETHING** IN YOUR HEART THAT SHAPES YOU.

Psalm 105:19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

4. **PROMISES ARE THE MECHANISMS THAT REVEAL AN INVISIBLE GOD TO US.** Faith doesn't exist without promises that **anchor our hope in the invisible realm**
5. **WE MUST SOW SEEDS OF HOPE** - Every farmer plants his field in hope of a harvest. **ALL WE DO IS DONE IN HOPE** of *better things*.

- **“BETTER DAYS A COMING - EVERYBODY HULA!!”** - **Uncle Augie**

1 Cor 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.” Is it oxen God is concerned about? **10** Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? **For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope.**

- **IF YOU DON'T PLANT A GARDEN NOW, HOW CAN YOU HAVE A HARVEST LATER?** Hope provides the motivation to work

II. DO THESE THINGS TO HOLD ONTO YOUR HOPE:

1. **INTENTIONALLY REMEMBER GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**

Lam. 3:21 *This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.*²² Through the

LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

23 *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

2. TRUST GOD THAT YOUR *CURRENT SITUATION* IS NOT YOUR FOREVER SITUATION

Jer 29:11 *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.*

- **OUR FUTURE HOPE** - Going to Babylon now. Coming back in 70 years.
- **All change is preceded by believing** – and hope is intrinsically **connected to believing**. So, in order to see change, we must first replenish the reservoirs of our hope. ***Having our hope restored begins as an intentional remembrance of all the Lord has done for us in the past and then projecting His faithfulness out into our future.***

3. BE STEADFAST

- **Don't anchor your soul in cheap hope - glib statements.** **ANCHOR IN GOD HIMSELF AND HIS PROMISES TO YOU! (ANCHORS HOLD US in safe harbor and dragging one behind keeps us on course in a storm)**

Heb. 6:13 *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,* ¹⁴ *saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."* ¹⁵ *And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.* ¹⁶ *For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.* ¹⁷ *Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability (#1 UNCHANGING NATURE) of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,* ¹⁸ *that by two immutable things, in which it is (#2) impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.* ¹⁹ ***This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil***

- **THE SECRET TO HOPING** is to hope in God and not in things. It is Gods promises that are true, **not my own interpretation of them**

- **LIVING BEHIND THE VEIL IN HIS PRESENCE IS OUR HOPE**

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

FAITH ANCHORS HOPE. IT IS THE SUBSTANCE WE STAND UP ON

4. GUARD YOUR HEART FROM HOPELESSNESS

- **WAITING CAN MAKE YOU SO HEART-SICK THAT YOU LOSE HOPE**

Prov. 13:12 *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*

- **THE VISION IN OUR MIND SHAPES THE QUALITY OF OUR HOPE AND OUR BELIEVING** - *God wanted Abraham to dream BIG! SEE IT!*

GEN. 15:5 *Then He brought him outside and said, “**Look now toward heaven, and count the stars** if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”*

- **We need to have Hope in order to have the courage to chase life.**
Hopelessness will suck all our desire and motivation to keep going.

III. BECOME A TREE OF LIFE - *Get HOLD of the God of ALL HOPE*

CULTIVATE HOPE- ***Expect Good from a Good God.*** Don't be afraid of hope. Work through disappointment . **Encourage Yourself in the Lord.** Ask for **hope-infusions** and **course-correct** hourly. The world has a hopelessness problem.

HOPE AGAINST HOPE

1 Samuel 30:6 *Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But **David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.***

- **WORSHIP - SEEK - BELIEVE - OBEY - PURSUE - RECLAIM**
- **DON'T WALLOW IN SELF-PITY - DO THE THINGS THAT WILL MOVE YOU FORWARD TOWARD the RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS**