

HOPE RISES US UP!

Hope Leads Us Through Tough Times

11-22-20

Optimism is psychological, optimism is personal trust in you, and optimism is often a denial of reality. Optimism is what you think you can do. It's positive thinking, not permanent trust.

Hope is theological; hope is personal trust in God. Hope is what you think God can do.

1 Peter 1:21 - Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and **hope** are **in God**.

The presence of hope in your life creates:

You will have more satisfying relationships, be more productive, be less affected by stress, be more successful, feel more satisfied, be more compassionate, be willing to help people in need, be physically healthy. You will hold to higher moral and ethical standards, be more likely to assume leadership, and be more likely to see God as loving, caring, and forgiving.

- **Miracles are to build your faith which increases your hope.**

The amazing thing about these two men was not their physical blindness, which was common in their day, but their spiritual sight, which is uncommon in any day.

*Hopelessness is seeing life without God. (You can)

*Overcoming hopelessness is seeing life with spiritual eyes. (God can)

Mark 10:46 - ...was sitting by the roadside begging...

Five choices to make for a hope-filled life:

1. Take hold of the _____.

Mark 10:46-47 - Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

2. _____ your fears.

Mark 10:48 - Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

John 6:37 - All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

How do I stop letting the fear of other people's opinion control me?

*Put _____ First.

*When you see from God's perspective and understand that everything is under the feet of Jesus, you will and can put Jesus first.

3. _____ your faith.

Mark 10:49-50 - Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

4. _____ God's grace.

Mark 10:52 - "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight. . .

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

5. _____ the next step.

Mark 10:52 - "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Take home questions:

What can I do?

How can I serve?

Who can I serve?

B- Begin to pray for that person.

L- Listen to that person.

E- Eat with that person and build a relationship.

S- Serve that person.

S- Share your story with that person.