

HOPE RISES US UP!

Hope Is All We Need, Part 2

12-6-20

Hope is not optimism.

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.

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

1 Kings 17:1 - Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

I. Kerith: the ravine of **OBSCURITY**.

1 Kings 17:2-7 - Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: ³ "Leave here, turn eastward and **hide in the Kerith Ravine**, east of the Jordan. ⁴ You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there." ⁵ **So he did what the Lord had told him**. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. ⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. ⁷ Some time later the Brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

- Kerith means: Cut off or cut down.
- There is so much more that God needs to do **IN** him, because there is so much more God wants to do **THROUGH** him.

Three reasons God allows brooks to dry up:

1. To keep you from **DEPENDING** on the brook.
2. To **MOVE** you to a better place.
3. To **PROVE** He has not forgotten about you.

II. Journey north: the road of INSECURITY.

1 Kings 17:8-10 - Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath.

What to remember:

1. The path to a miracle is always through UNCOMFORTABLE territory.
2. The source of a miracle is always _____.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

3. The pattern for a miracle is: ____ ommand - ____ romise - ____ isk

III. Zarephath: the refinery of _____.

1 Kings 17:10-16 - So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.” 12 “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don't have any bread – only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die.” 13 Elijah said to her, “**Don't be afraid**. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me **from what you have** and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil **will not run dry** until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.’” 15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

What to remember:

1. Whatever I need _____ of, I need to _____ to God.

1 Kings 17:13-16 - Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.'" ¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

- A refinery is a place where they take heat and pressure to purify and shape raw metal into something useful.

2. Whatever I have the _____ of, I _____ to God.

1 Kings 17:11-12 - As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." ¹² "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread..."

3. I don't give to be _____: I give to be a _____.

Lessons to take home:

1. God is all you need.
2. God will provide where He guides.
3. God wants me to trust Him every day.
4. God's promises are always connected to obedience.

Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.