



DON'T LOSE HOPE
Sunday July 03, 2005

Life isn't always easy!

There are challenges and struggles all of us go through.

We find ourselves in the middle of situations that seem hopeless.

We plan with great excitement, set goals and dreams. However, some where along the journey, we run into some difficult weather – and then our goals and dreams seem to slip away. We despair of ever being able to reach them.

Some times life takes an unexpected twist and we find ourselves in a dead-end street.

Some of us may be right in the center of a hopeless situation today.

The God of the Bible specializes in giving life to the dead and in turning hopeless situations around.

With Him on your side, you can hope against hope – even when all seems hopeless, and come out a winner.

Let the God of the Bible turn your situation around!

The importance of having hope

Hope = anticipation, expectation, something you look forward to, a desire, a dream, an aspiration

Hope – an important part of our Christian life

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

As believers we Hope for many things to come

- The hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2)
- The hope of glory (Colossians 1:27 ".....Christ in you, the hope of glory:")
- The hope of salvation
- The hope of Christ's return (Titus 2:13)
- The hope of the resurrection

It is also very important to have hope in every day life

Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Hope – an anchor of the soul

Hebrews 6:19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul,

Faith and hope are interdependent

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

The God who turns hopeless situations around

Luke 2 : The miracle at the wedding feast

Luke 5 : The morning after a hopeless night



Ezekiel 37:1-14 – The nation of Israel

Ezekiel 37:11,12

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

Abraham & Sarah

Romans 4:17,18

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

The basis for having hope in a hopeless situation

Romans 4:18

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, ACCORDING TO THAT WHICH WAS SPOKEN, So shall thy seed be.

God & His Word become the basis for the hope we have.

Psalm 38:15 For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God.

Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Hope for the future 1 Corinthians 2:9 Jeremiah 29:11

Hope of becoming a success Psalm 1:1-3

Hope of accomplishing your dreams Psalm 37:4

Hope for your children Psalm 112:2

What do I do in the middle of a hopeless situation so that God can turn it around?

Abraham – hope against hope

Romans 4:17-21

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

1. BELIEVE IN HOPE THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME ACCORDING TO WHAT WAS SPOKEN

God and His Word are one. Faith in His Word is faith in God.

2. DON'T LET THE HOPLESNESS OF THE SITUATION NUMB YOUR FAITH

Paint a picture of your promised outcome on the canvas of your imagination. Look at it often!



3. DEMONSTRATE DETERMINATION & ENDURANCE

Don't take the easy way out – it complicates things!

e.g. Abraham bore Ishmael

e.g. Caleb walked with the Israelites through the wilderness even though it was not his fault

Determination is demonstrated by consistent obedience to God's Word.

Romans 8:24,25

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

1Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Lamentations 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

4. KEEP YOUR JOY, GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope;

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Psalms 42:5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Psalms 71:14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.