

# HOPE: The Key Ingredient To Following Jesus

Dr. Randall J. Pannell - June 30 & July 1, 2007

## THE POWER OF HOPE

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Philippians 4:13; NKJ)

For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall.

(Psalm 18:29; NKJ)

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

(Dale Carnegie)

In the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer.

(Albert Camus)

## THE LOSS OF HOPE

When Saul and his troops heard [Goliath's] challenge, they were terrified and lost all hope.

(1 Samuel 17:11; Message)

They were absolutely terrified at the letter. They said, "Two kings have already been wiped out by him; what hope do we have?"

(2 Kings 10:4; Message)

Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.'"

(Ezekiel 37:11; Message)

## HOPE, THE KEY INGREDIENT OF FOLLOWING JESUS

I have plans for you, good plans, to give you a future and a HOPE!

(Jeremiah 29:11)

Surely, there is a HOPE ...!

(Proverbs 23:18)

### I. The importance of HOPE

We have three things to do ...: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the most important of the three is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13; Message)

### II. What is hope?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What I do, GOD, is wait for you, wait for my Lord, my God—you *will* answer!  
I wait and pray.

(Psalm 38:15-16a)

What am I doing in the meantime, Lord? *Hoping*, that's what I'm doing—hoping  
You'll save me from a rebel life, save me from the contempt of dunces.

(Psalm 39:7-8; Message)

### III. The Problem of Hope: \_\_\_\_\_

Israel's Helplessness in the Wilderness versus God's perspective

(The Book of Hosea)

God's view:

1. A place of nurture  
I took care of you in the wilderness, in that dry and thirsty land. (13:5)
2. A place of discipline  
I found Israel like wild grapes in the wilderness; I saw you as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first *season*. (9:10)
3. A place of "wooing"  
But then I will win her back once again. I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her there. (2:14)
4. A place of dependence, direction, following, listening, building a relationship

### IV. How Do We Nurture Hope (Keep Hope Alive)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we ARE helpless.
2. Admit our \_\_\_\_\_ to being \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of hope.

There's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:  
God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over). He's all I've got.

(Lamentations 3:21-24)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ to hope.

For Scripture was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

(Romans 15:4)

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

(Ephesians 1:18)

5. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

(Romans 15:13)

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## HOPE IS:

- a. The foundation of:
    - i. Tranquility  
God, the one and only—I'll wait as long as he says. Everything I hope for comes from him, so why not? (Psalm 62:5)
    - ii. Joy  
With that kind of hope to excite us, nothing holds us back. (2 Corinthians 3:12)
    - iii. Optimism  
I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. (Psalm 71:14)
  - b. The source of:
    - i. Endurance  
Don't lose hope. Don't ever give up when the rumors pour in hot and heavy. One year it's this, the next year it's that. (Jeremiah 51:46)
    - ii. Perseverance  
I stand my ground and hope, (Isaiah 8:18)
    - iii. Discipline  
Wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short. (Proverbs 24:14)
    - iv. Resilience  
For a tree there is always hope. Chop it down and it still has a chance—its roots can put out fresh sprouts. (Job 14:7)
    - v. Patience  
He has rescued us from a terrible death, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. (2 Corinthians 1:10)
    - vi. Overcoming  
Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. (2 Corinthians 3:12)
  - vii. Courage  
Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who hope in the LORD. (Psalm 31:24)
  - viii. Christian confidence  
Full of hope, you'll relax, confident again; you'll look around, sit back, and take it easy. (Job 11:18)
  - ix. The difference between giving up and continuing  
God doesn't miss anything. He knows that you keep at it. And now I want each of you to extend that same intensity toward a full-bodied hope, and keep at it till the finish. (Hebrews 6:10-11)
  - x. The attitude of continuing  
Wait, Israel, for GOD. Wait with hope. Hope now; hope always! (Psalm 131:3)
- c. The hope of selflessness, the selflessness of hope
    - i. Antidote for:
      1. Exclusivity
      2. Being Judgmental
    - ii. Courage on behalf of others
    - iii. Allows us and causes us "To GO" (Matthew 28:18-20), versus waiting for others "To COME" (Zechariah 8:18-23)