



## ABOUNDING IN HOPE

Today we are living in the days of darkness covering the earth and gross darkness the people. Today more than ever we need to exercise our faith and trust that in the darkness, and in the stormy situations of life God continues to bring us hope for a bright future. The storms of life have the potential to reveal Jesus to us in ways we may have never understood before. When we can see Him coming to us, walking on the waters of our storm, it gives us the same message of hope that He gave to His disciples that dark and stormy night in Matthew 14.

They were in the midst of a storm when He told them to cheer up. By the administration of His power Jesus brought them peace and exhorted them to activate their own faith, and He is still doing that in our lives today in the midst of our storms. He is saying, be of good cheer and activate your faith to walk on the waves of your circumstance to overcome and be at peace.

When Jesus showed up walking on the water He came declaring His identity. He said, It is "I" - a personal pronoun like the one He used when He said, I am the door...I am the way, the truth and the life...I am the bread of life...I am the good shepherd. He was saying cheer up, all the power you need is here...I AM with you. In this steadfast truth we can enjoy peace in the midst of every situation, circumstance and storm.

Jesus issued a command to His disciples, be not afraid. This statement literally reads, "You stop fearing and don't you ever fear again." Jesus is in control of every area of our lives. He is God, He possesses all power. Everything in our lives is "Father-filtered" and when we come to that place where we can trust Him fully through all the storms of life, our full potential will be realized. We will walk in overcoming faith, expecting and hoping that every promise will be fulfilled for God Himself watches over His Word to perform it!

So stir up your faith, stir up your hope. As I spent time with The Lord He said to me, My people need their HOPE stirred up. They "cope" with situations when they have a "hope" for true change in me.

So often God encourages me when I feel without hope, when I feel like nothing is going to change, when I lose hope in people and things. He lovingly reveals to me that when I start feeling "hopeless" I make my decisions about things based on what I "see" and "feel" and reminds me that my hope must not be in "the natural" but rather in His "supernatural ability" to change things when I simply trust Him.

Faith is the substance of things HOPED for, the evidence of things not yet seen.



This is not defining what faith is in totality, but rather it shows us what faith "does" in an operative sense. Faith undergirds what we "hope" for. Faith and hope are power twins that "work together" exercising patience to receive the promise of God in our lives.

Substance means that which stands under. Faith is the foundation for what we hope for, faith is the foundation for our belief in Jesus, our relationship with God and everything else that it implies within His purpose. Faith is the very beginning of everything that really matters spiritually in our lives. Without faith we cannot be saved, without faith it is impossible to please God. Without faith we cannot appropriate any of the promises of God. Without faith we have no real hope.

Hope is a vital necessity of life, a gift that God wants us to enjoy. In a world that writes dreams off as foolish and drains the hope from the heart with pessimism and negative input, God's kind of hope is a voice crying in the wilderness, a word of enthusiasm for life in the midst of death, an answer and solution to any difficult situation we are in.

Because of this hope, we can smile through our tears, rejoice through times of suffering, and we can know and trust that no matter what we are going through, it isn't the end of the story. It's simply part of the journey that leads us to the right destination. In Him we have a solid, stable, sure hope. Hope to press on. Hope to endure. Hope to see our dreams fulfilled.

The hope made available through faith is a "confident expectation," a firm assurance of things uncertain and unknown. It should be an enduring virtue of our Christian life. Real life and love springs from hope.

Jeremiah 17:7, Blessed is the man that trusts in the LORD...and whose hope the LORD is.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13:13, And now abides faith, hope and love...these three; but the greatest of these is love...

The world says that hope is merely a fond wish or desire, but the words used for hope in the Bible tell a different story. They teach us that hope is a deep settled confidence that God will keep His promises!

Colossians 1:4 states the following: Because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people...the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel.

Hope produces joy and peace in our lives through the power of the Spirit.

Paul attributes his apostolic calling to the hope of eternal glory in Titus 1:1-2, Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that



leads to godliness...in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.

Our hope in the return of Jesus is our motivation to walk purely before God.

Hope can never depend on peace in our circumstance, justice in the world, success in our business, and righteousness and fairness in the land.

Hope is willing to wait through the situations of life not being moved by unanswered questions or a future that is unknown or unsure. Hope always sees God's hand in the best and brightest circumstances as well as in the worst and darkest ones. Hope lives for today, expects great things of tomorrow, believes that joy will come out of sadness, and finds new beginnings in the midst of the old ones. We choose to exercise hope in all aspects of our lives.

Romans 15:13 states, May the "God of hope" fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may "overflow with hope"...by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through faith in HIM...

Hope is a certainty  
It's for now...and for sure...  
Hope brings the answer  
When our faith will endure

Hope for the future  
Hope to regain what was lost  
Comes through our faith  
But starts with the cross.

The day that He died  
He sealed the deal...  
That our faith and our hope  
In Him...would be real

Hope for the future  
Through faith in His plan  
The two working together  
Empowers every woman and man



To hold fast to the promise  
Expecting God to come through  
He promised He'd do it...  
And His Word...is true...

Paul states in Ephesians 1:18, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people...

Our hope will forever shift and change if it is dependent on feelings rather than on the truth of God's word. Our hope is a confidence born of faith in a God who is faithful to His promises.

My dear fellow ministers: "Abound in hope," overflow with it, brimming over, full to overflowing, pushing out all contrary emotions of discouragement, depression, fear, anxiety, grumbling and bitterness.

Hope abounding, and overflowing will push these contrary emotions out and allow faith to fully give substance to those things you are hoping for!!!

Press into God in this season for He is "faith's firm foundation" and as you "hope in Him" your faith shall truly become sight that a privilege to co-labour together in the Harvest Field of The Lord!