

Never Lose HOPE

My story -

- We live in a world that is losing more hope each day
- A world & country that many say is hopeless
- A political situation with no hope
- People losing their jobs & unemployment at +28% of the population
- Evil people seeming to succeed
- Stock market falls & the rand's fluctuation
- Natural disasters
- Uncertainty in what the future holds for us and our children
- Darkness overcoming the light

What are we to do in these situations?

Stop in the middle of the storm to acknowledge God – trust your promises from His word, prophecy in the moment of the storm to align ourselves with the word.

What is the biblical definition of HOPE?

HOPE is the joyful anticipation of good – for every situation we face!!!!

We've been prepared for the situation and God has the answer!!!

It may seem like a HOPLESS situation but GOD is never caught off guard or by surprise!!!!

There are no hopeless situations for GOD only hopeless people!!!!

He who has the most HOPE, has the most Influence!!!

Any area of our lives for which we have no HOPE is under the influence of a lie!!!!

God knows the future – I believe that GOD wants to release HOPE this evening!!!!

You are not the only one that has felt that there is no hope – even **Bible** heroes had their times when they wanted to give up, some examples in the word are Job, Moses, Jonah, Jeremiah and even the powerful prophet in the Old Testament, Elijah.

The enemy will always come and try to rob us of hope – and convince us that we are on a dead end road – that we have no hope or because of what we have done can't have hope.

Losing HOPE is actually unbelief – saying God I don't trust you or your promises in your word!!!!

Tonight I want to cancel that lie and tell you that in God we will always have HOPE!!!!

Humans have definitions of hope that are different from God's, we might hope our springboks win the next world cup, or we might hope we don't lose our current work contract or that our house doesn't burn down etc

But the biblical definition of HOPE is not a hope-so but a KNOW-SO!!!

Our hope in God is surer than the sun rising in the morning.

Where is hope found?

It is in the Bible, the word of God. (Steven's message)

Psalms 119:74 "I have put my hope in Your word."

Psalms 130:5 "...in His word (the Bible) I put my hope."

Here is real hope, when a person reads and believes the Word of God they can know for certain that they have a secure and certain future in Him.

There is nothing on this earth more certain than hope in God, He will never leave us nor will He ever forsake us – He is our anchor in the present and for the future.

I want to share with you two stories of "hopeless situations" in the bible that Jesus released hope into:

The Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8 - New Living Translation (NLT)

A Woman Caught in Adultery

8 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives,² but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them.³ As he was

speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery.⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman.¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”¹¹ “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

They wanted to shame the woman in public and for them to appear self-righteous, they thought that they had placed Jesus between a rock and a hard place: On one hand if Jesus said no to stoning, they’d accuse Him of breaking the Law of Moses and on the other hand, if Jesus condoned the stoning of the woman, then they could go to the Roman authorities and tell them that Jesus is breaking Roman law where only the Roman authorities could condemn and kill someone.

The Hope is that even if you’re caught in a serious sin and at a time of public shame and humiliation, there is room for forgiveness, even for the worst of sins. The KEY is Jesus tells her “from now on sin no more.” That is a picture of repentance. Jesus was the only one who was without sin and He was the only one who had the right to stone her but He didn’t. Instead He said “Neither do I condemn you.”

What a beautiful picture of God’s mercy & forgiveness.

Don't ever lose HOPE if you're ever caught in sin, because no sin is ever greater than our Saviour.

Gideon, the Underdog

I believe God loves an underdog & I love stories where the unlikeliest hero of heroine wins in the end.

Gideon is a perfect example of the underdog but God often chooses those who the world has little expectations of so that God can receive the glory that He rightfully deserves anyway. When the angel of the Lord came to Gideon and said, the "Lord is with you, O mighty man of valour." Judges 6:12

This came during a time when Israel had fallen into disobedience and God had allowed the Midianites to oppress them. Every time the harvest was ripe, the Midianites would swoop down out of the mountains and raid the country and strip away all of the harvest and livestock and so "Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the Lord." (Judges 6:6) so the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." (Judges 6:14-15)

Here is why the story is so hopeful:

- **Gideon is the least of his clan**
- **He is the runt of the litter**
- **He is in hiding when the angel of the Lord approaches him**
- **But yet he is called "O mighty man of valour"**
- **The point is God sees what is before it even exists**
- **God knows the future and He speaks as if it's already present**
- **God knew that Gideon's tiny little force of 300 farmers and shepherds could never destroy a camp of 135 000 seasoned,**

experienced and well trained soldiers – BUT with God all things are possible

- **So we must never lose hope even when the odds look exceedingly hopeless**
- **God always has a plan**

Biblical HOPE creates an atmosphere that your faith grows in and it attracts the promises of GOD!!!!

The following is a list of different types of HOPE that the Lord gives us in His word:

Redemptive Hope

Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. Psalm 130:7

If you are a believer you can be rest assured that God's love is unfailing and that God has signed this redemption from sin with Jesus' own blood.

When our hope is in the Lord and not in us, it is a rock solid hope.

Gift of Hope

For you have given me hope. Psalm 119:49

Our only real sustaining hope comes from the Lord.

Future Hope

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

God has a plan and purpose for you – you can bank on that. His plans are not intended to harm you but to prosper you.

Unending Hope

Put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore. Psalm 131:3

Hope is for now, it is for today and it is for tomorrow also, this hope is the believers hope that covers your entire life, it is without end and will stay with us until Jesus comes for us.

Lovely Hope

The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love. Psalm 147:11

He wants us to depend upon Him for everything – all things work together for the good (Rom 8:28)

Unashamed Hope

No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame.....Psalm 25:3

If we have our hope in the right place that is not in ourselves, our jobs, our circumstances, but in God alone we will never be disappointed.

Courageous Hope

Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24

When God is our hope you have a sure thing, if our hope comes from the world then we are consumed with worry because we don't know what comes next.

Protective Hope

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. Psalm 33:20

He is our help when we need it and our shield when we need protecting.

Restful Hope

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. Psalm 62:5

I have often at times wrestled with tomorrow while I lay down to sleep, the many “what if’s” play on your mind and worry about tomorrow.....but worrying about tomorrow is borrowing trouble from tomorrow and spending it on today. When you realise that tomorrow is already taken care of by God alone and the hope you have in Him, then you can find rest.

In Conclusion

My History – shows the power of the blood of Jesus

My present – demonstrates the absolute love, affection & purpose of God at work in my life

My Future – is drawing me into a HOPE-Filled life that has purpose and keeps on reflecting “On earth as it is in Heaven”

The Christian faith is not a hope-so hope but a know-so hope. It’s not like the hope of the world which disappoints but rather it’s a hope anchored in God and in the Word of God and in the God who can do all things.

My hope for you is that you increase in this Godly Hope and that you stay grounded in His word – it is for all seasons.