

April

HOPE: AN ANCHOR FOR MY SOUL

Hebrews 6:13-19

Assignment: To Offer Hope to someone who is feeling a little less confident in their present situation. To Offer Optimism to someone who is feeling that it is almost over. I decree that tonight you will be revived, relieved and rejuvenated.

Declaration: If you ever run out of Hope you will run out of life. It is Hope that sustains us. Hope is vital to our very existence. Without Hope we have no vision. We must believe that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Now faith is the substance of things Hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. I see you now as is, but Hope declares the evidence will be seen of what God is actually doing in your life. Hope must be in Him. Without Hope there is no faith. Without FAITH there is no Hope.

As children we hoped for toys and sweet treats. We received promises that if we would do GOOD we would be rewarded. My parents promised me every year a swimming pool for my birthday. I wished, hoped and prayed for that swimming pool. What I failed to realize was that my birthday was in December. Who buys a swimming pool in December? But, I never gave up Hope. I believed I would get that swimming pool. God saw fit to allow me to purchase a house with a swimming pool. I had HOPE.

As teen agers we HOPED to complete high school to get from under our parent's thumb. We went to college; trade school in hope of getting a good job. As young adults we hoped that the right person would come along to marry and have a family with children, a picket fence and a dog. We had HOPE.

On our jobs we HOPED for a promotion which would render a raise which would lead to more money and a better way of life. We had Hope. At Middle aged we hope for job security until time to retire. We HOPED that our children would grow to be productive independent adults and leave our households! We had HOPE! As Senior Citizens we hoped for the 3 scores and 10 years God has promised. We Hope that our health would not fail as we prepare to meet Our Father which Art in Heaven! We have Hope.

Without a vision the people perish. You would not be where you are today if you did not have HOPE. Your belief in God would diminish if you did not believe what God has said in His Word. Why go to work if you don't believe you will be paid. Why marry if you don't believe you are loved. Why go to school if you don't believe in the benefits of an education. Why see a Specialist

if you don't believe he can help you. The moment we stop believing and lose HOPE we die. We must keep HOPE alive.

Hope gives us a will to live. One year my husband's grandmother, Mama Bessie, lost a son in August. Her husband sat on the side of the bed in November, same year, and died. Two of her daughters and granddaughter were in a car accident in December, same year, and one was killed. In January her brother died. I remember at one of the funerals she cried out, "Joe, what are you gone do?" Mama Bessie became ill and shortly thereafter she passed. She begged us to let her go home. We told her that she was home; did she mean back to Carlton? She said, "No, home with Jesus." I believe Mama Bessie after so much tragedy lost her will to live. She lost HOPE!

HOPE assures us that there is a better day ahead. If we hang in there God will see us through. Our present may not be an indication of our future. Hope shines a light on a dark road and is like a dose of medicine on a wounded soul.

Our FAITH should be solid. Our Hope is the vehicle that keeps you operating in that faith. Faith says God can. Hope says God will. Our household money is direct deposited. When I check on Monday and there is \$3.16 in the account. My faith is the \$3.16 which assures me that I still have an open account at the bank. My HOPE keeps me unafraid of what could happen with no money because I know that the money will be in there soon. I can actually use my card the day prior because the money is pending. All I have to do is hold on to the HOPE that is anchored in my soul. My dreams are not denied they are just PENDING.

There is a mechanism on your car that tells you that you have '0' miles before you are out of gas. Your faith is in the fact that this information is correct. Some vehicles have a reserve tank. You believe that you can ride on a little further because of that reserve tank when you know you are riding on fumes until you make to the gas station. Your HOPE level says that God has already made the promise to take care of you, it's just PENDING!