

**Nurturing Revival Towards an Awakening:
Develop a Personality of Hope so we Live in Expectancy**

1. Actions:

- a. Birthed and carried in Intercessory Prayer.
- b. Create a Revival Culture.
- c. Develop a life of power that is Naturally Supernatural.
- d. Frequent and repeated Testimonies are a key to sustaining faith.
- e. Showing the Goodness of God is the bedrock of revival.
- f. Understanding our identity brings the gift of righteousness in reach.
- g. Develop a personality of Hope so we live in expectancy.**
- h. The greatest of these is Love. We show Gods love when we trouble ourselves in behalf of others.
- i. Honoring one another is the value system of Heaven.
- j. Using Order as an excuse to control can cause us to miss things that bring Life. We need to prioritize freedom over order.
- k. Living in Joy ushers in the atmosphere of Heaven.
- l. Constantly walking in Forgiveness allows the Church to function with limitless restoration.
- m. Unity among God's people shows the world the truth of Jesus.

2. Hope: Living with expectancy

- a. 1 Peter 1: 3 His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope...
- b. A culture of revival is an optimistic atmosphere filled with hope.
 - i. Hope looks into the eternal nature of God and finds a place of confidence and safety.
 - ii. Heb. 6: 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil
 - iii. Hope has power because its source comes directly from relationship with the Creator.
 - iv. Instead of looking at the circumstances, hope turns to look into the face of God
- c. Hope is alive; it is active and it is real.

3. CURE FOR PESSIMISM

- a. Hope is the antidote to pessimism.
- b. A revival culture must be filled with hope,
 - i. Revival and pessimism can't cohabitate.
- c. In the presence of difficulty, hope finds confidence in the character of God ...
- d. Heb. 6: 18 We may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.
 - i. Hope is a hiding place; not a "head in the sand" denial of what is going on
 - ii. It is a redirection of our attention to find the truth!
 - iii. "strong encouragement."
 - 1. Gives a hint that there is more available in hope than we realized.
 - iv. The phrase laying hold of comes from a single Greek word that means
 - 1. to take power over,
 - 2. to become powerful,

3. to be master over.
 - e. When we turn our focus from the situation and take hold of hope,
 - i. we receive power to deal with the circumstance.
 - ii. Hope makes us master over the powers that are not in alignment with the will of the King.
 - f. Hope is such a pervasive theme in scripture that the word occurs 140 times
 - i. Hope provides the primary protection for our minds.
 - ii. Paul tells the church in 1 Thess. 5: 8,
 1. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
 - iii. The hope of salvation:
 1. keeps our minds focused,
 2. protects our thoughts and
 3. keeps us free from fear.
 4. protected from the storms
 - iv. Without hope we are subject to the swirl of life around us.
 - g. The word hope carries both the idea of expectation and anticipation.
 - i. Hope is a joyful and confident expectation of good.
 - ii. Hope also means to anticipate with pleasure.
 - h. In a society where everything thrown at us is negative, this is profoundly important.
 - i. For Christians in this hour many of the voices we listen to and trust present a pessimistic perspective that promotes fear and disbelief.
 - i. These negative influences are deadly for revival.
4. The faith we need is dependent on the hope within us.
 - a. Faith after all is the substance of things hoped for (Heb. 11: 1).
 - b. To have faith you need hope!
 - c. Without a hope-filled view of what God is doing in the earth, we lack the faith to release the miracles.
 - d. Many in the church see regular healings and miracles.
 - i. Almost without exception those moving with the greatest effectiveness are
 1. those who refuse to be distracted by the negative around them.
 2. They focus on what God is doing in the earth.
 - e. Only hope that has its anchor in the presence of God has the power to change our minds.
 - f. Only in a place of hope will we be able to see and hear that heaven speaks.
 - g. Only when we hear what heaven is speaking will we have the boldness to step out and release the power of the kingdom.

5. LIVING HOPE

- a. All the patriarchs were people of hope;
 - i. despite their circumstances they looked forward to the fulfillment of the promise of God even though they weren't experiencing it.
 - ii. Most died still looking forward to the promise of a Savior.
 - iii. Rom. 4: 18 In hope against hope he believed, in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which had been spoken...

- b. We have the privilege of living on the other side of the promise.
 - i. We don't have to wait for the Messiah; He has come.
 - ii. We don't have to live in the shadow of the law, because Jesus has fulfilled it and offered us His righteousness as a gift.
 - iii. As sons and daughters of the King we have access behind the veil and have been invited into a deep and personal intimacy with the Father.
 - iv. From that place of intimacy we hear His heart beat and embrace His perspective.
 - v. Peter calls this a living hope.
 - vi. A young couple, Zach and Natalie
 - 1. Found out they were pregnant for the third time.
 - 2. the year before they had lost their second baby
 - 3. Doctor's appointment to make sure everything looked "normal,"
 - 4. When they had the ultrasound, the doctor could detect no heartbeat and the placenta was not forming properly.
 - 5. The child was dead in the womb.
 - 6. This would be their second miscarriage and they were devastated.
 - 7. When they shared their story with their Pastor his focus was on pastoring them in this difficult situation,
 - 8. He called on his wife to help.
 - 9. When she was told what happened, she reacted immediately and jammed her hand onto Natalie's stomach and yelled "Life! Life!"
 - 10. The Pastor was a little taken aback because it "wasn't very pastoral"
 - 11. Natalie said that the moment Sally spoke life into her, she felt something change inside of her body.
 - 12. The next day they set up an appointment to have another ultrasound.
 - 13. They were hopeful but very nervous and not quite sure what to expect.
 - 14. This time, however, they were in for a GREAT surprise!
 - 15. To everyone's delight the doctor detected the baby's heartbeat, and the placenta was now formed, making everything "normal."
 - 16. They had no other complications during that pregnancy
 - 17. They named their beautiful baby girl, Miracle,
 - 18. as a testimony of the miracle God had performed on their behalf.
 - 19. Since then, they have gone on to have three more healthy children.
 - vii. 1 Pet. 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 - 1. The new birth changes our understanding of possibility.
 - a. We were born again into a hope that is alive.
 - b. This living hope is the life of Christ living and working in us.
 - c. Our hope is alive!
 - 2. The word living comes from the root zoe
 - a. which in scripture refers to God's kind of life,
 - b. the very life we receive at the new birth.
 - c. We were dead in our sin until God gave us the gift of eternal life.

- d. This eternal zoe life is living on the inside of us and it is full of hope.
- 3. Our thinking and our conduct changes when living hope rules in our lives.
 - a. We begin to live from an eternal perspective.
 - b. Natural barriers no longer bind us,
- 4. The more we let living hope rule our thinking,
 - a. the more clearly we see into the eternal purpose of God,
 - b. the less influenced we are by all that is going on in the natural realm.

6. ANCHORED HOPE

- a. When we are born again,
 - i. we pass from death to life and receive a living hope as our birthright.
- b. So why do so many struggle with hope?
 - i. If we are not careful, our hope gets fixed to the wrong things.
 - ii. The nature of hope it always will be anchored to something.
 - iii. Sometimes it is
 - 1. our ability, our gifts, or our performance.
 - 2. fixated on personal happiness,
 - 3. trust in the economy, government, business,
 - 4. The list goes on.
 - iv. One of the most common dysfunctional anchors is to fix our hope on a person
 - 1. a spouse, a pastor or friends.
- c. Hope becomes living when it is fixed on God.
 - i. The Christian life works when Jesus becomes the anchor of every part of our existence. ...
 - ii. Heb. 12: 2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, (the Anchor) the author and perfecter of faith...
 - iii. When our hope is on Him, we are purified (1 John 3: 3) and conformed to His image.
 - iv. When we look at Him, our perspective changes.
 - 1. We begin to see through His eyes and hope grows.
 - v. Remember one of the definitions of hope is expectation.
 - 1. The English word comes from the prefix “ex” meaning out and “Spector” meaning to see.
 - 2. Expectation then is the ability to see out.
 - 3. Literally, when we have hope, we can see clearly outside or beyond our circumstances.
 - vi. This is what it says about Jesus ...
 - 1. Heb. 12: 2 who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - 2. Jesus had an expectation beyond the momentary suffering.
 - 3. His hope was anchored in the nature of His Father and the joy of their master plan of salvation.

7. LIFECYCLE OF HOPE

- a. When Paul wrote to the Romans he described a pattern that in-creases our hope.
 - i. A lifecycle of Hope,
 - ii. Each time we walk through this scenario:

1. our faith increases,
 2. our love increases
 3. Our ability to sustain the presence increases.
- b. He began with the life we received at salvation.
- i. Rom. 5: 1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
 - ii. By faith we receive His payment for sin
 - iii. We are no longer striving to please Him.
 - iv. We are at peace and have the privilege of full, unhindered access to Abba.
 - v. All this comes to us from Jesus,
- c. There is more ...
- i. Rom. 5: 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
 - ii. We are introduced by faith to grace,
 1. a grace so powerful that it literally transforms us.
 - iii. Grace is not just favor;
 1. it is the power of the risen Savior living inside us,
 2. transforming us on the inside into His image.
 3. God's abundant grace is the cornerstone of our new identity.
 - iv. The grace we stand on leads us to exalt in hope.
 1. Hope lets us access what is present reality in heaven and it even reaches into the future.
 2. Through hope, faith is not limited by experience.
 3. It gives us access to:
 - a. everything we were created for;
 - b. our destiny.
 4. Hope lets us dream with God,
 - a. who is ready to do more than we can even imagine.
 - v. Through hope we break the limitations of the natural realm and begin to live in the supernatural realm where the impossible becomes normal.
 1. With this kind of hope faith comes naturally
 - a. It is the substance of extravagant hope. Yet it doesn't stop there!
 - vi. This lifecycle has another step.
 1. Rom. 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance...
 - a. Exalt in tribulations!
 - b. No way; why did hope lead me here?
 - c. Big dreams don't come into reality without pressing in.
 - d. The root of the word tribulation is pressure.
 - i. None of us like pressure
 - ii. Very little of value has ever been produced without it.
 2. Notice the word exalt,
 - a. this speaks of more than merely enduring pressure,
 - b. but of exalting God in the midst of it.

- c. Fixing our eyes on Jesus,
 - d. we deeply love Him no matter what is going on around us.
- vii. The highest praise is praise under pressure.
 - 1. Praise under pressure produces perseverance.
 - 2. What is our response to pressure?
 - a. If we stay flexible and focused on God and His grace (perseverance),
 - b. then the pressure will produce growth (proven character).
 - 3. Paul goes on to say in Rom. 5: 4,
 - a. and perseverance, proven character;
 - b. and proven character, hope...
 - 4. Perseverance produces character and the growth in character produces more hope.
- viii. The lifecycle of hope begins in grace, which increases hope.
 - 1. Hope grows as we dream beyond our ability;
 - a. the big dream requires more faith
 - b. that increases the pressure as we are being pressed into His image.
 - c. The pressure increases our worship, releasing more grace,
 - d. which increases our hope,
 - e. causing the pressure of growth requiring us to access more grace...
 - 2. Each cycle of this process ends in a fresh baptism of the Father's love ...
- ix. Rom. 5: 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- x. Every time we respond correctly to pressure"
 - 1. we experience more of the love of God poured out into us by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. and the more of His love we receive the more we give out.
- d. Revival culture grows on this outpouring of love.
 - i. Hope does not disappoint –it will never make us ashamed.
 - ii. This is a call to dream big!

8. FIXED ON GRACE

- a. To sustain under pressure, our hope must be fixed completely on grace.
- b. 1 Pet. 1: 13Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- c. Prepare for action (pressure) by:
 - i. keeping our hope fixed completely on the grace –
 - 1. not on our past performance,
 - 2. not on the circumstances,
 - 3. not on what others are doing.
- d. If we don't keep focused on the grace, hope will quickly disappear.
 - i. Grace is the key to sustaining a life of living hope.

9. JOYFUL HOPE

- a. This may not sound like a lot of fun,

- b. The intention of the Father is that the whole process would be with such joy that we hardly notice the circumstances.
- c. Paul tells us in Rom. 15: 13 that, Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- d. Hope is:
 - i. in the nature of God;
 - ii. He is the God of hope.
- e. God, the author of hope,
 - i. has so designed the process of our growth that it is always full of joy and peace.
 - ii. We are enabled to abound in hope by the power of the Spirit,
- f. The Spirit of God helps us focus on God Himself –
 - i. the source of hope –
 - ii. that empowers us to live full of joy and peace no matter what is going on around us.
- g. This lifestyle of joy and peace will:
 - i. begin to attract attention,
 - ii. giving us opportunity to share the source of our hope.

10. HOPE AND BOLDNESS

- a. Living hope makes us incredibly bold.
- b. Paul says 2 Cor. 3: 12, Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech.
- c. If we want people to walk in boldness, we must introduce them to a living hope.
- d. Peter and John were arrested,
 - i. they responded by focusing on God's goodness and let worship and praise fill their jail cell.
 - 1. Worship in the midst of trials will turn our valley of trouble into a door of hope,
 - 2. (Hosea 2: 15) a doorway that leads to joy and boldness.
 - ii. After their encounter with the authorities, instead of laying low, they prayed for more boldness and an increase of the miraculous (Acts 4: 29).
- e. When our hope is:
 - i. fixed on the eternal plan and purpose of God,
 - ii. when it draws its life from intimacy with the Father,
 - iii. then the only possible response will be joy and boldness in the midst of difficulty!

11. HOPE AND CALLING

- a. Accessing living hope is essential if we are to fulfill our calling.
 - i. Eph. 1: 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
 - 1. This is written to the church and tells us that the eyes of our heart need to be opened.
 - 2. We need a revelation to see more than we see at present
 - ii. Our calling and hope are connected;
 - 1. the more aligned we are with our calling, the more hope is available.

- 2. In fact hope is hard to find if we walk away from our calling.
- iii. Obedience to the call is a key to accessing hope,
 - 1. When we walk in our calling, we have access to our inheritance.
 - 2. Step outside of our calling and accessing the blessing becomes difficult.
 - 3. We can't live for self and live in our blessing.
 - 4. We are called as a son or daughter of the King,
 - 5. but the blessing of that calling only flows from relationship.
- iv. The prodigal son had to return to his calling to reconnect with the blessing of abundance.
- v. We are called as co-laborers with Christ, but notice that our inheritance is in the saints.
- vi. We are designed to work together with the rest of the body;
 - 1. some of what I need is in you and some of what you need is in me.
 - 2. We will miss some of our hope if we don't value our relationships.
- vii. The very people who produce some of our greatest pressure are part of our inheritance.
- viii. Living hope is a daily perspective that guards our minds as we relate to others,
 - 1. for hope sees others through the eyes of Jesus.
 - 2. Looking through His eyes allows us to see their future rather than their past.
 - 3. This frees us from judgment and lets us see their destiny no matter how broken they appear.

12. HOPE ANTICIPATES

- a. Anticipate is a combination of:
 - i. ante a prefix which means "before" and
 - ii. cipare, which means, "to take."
- b. Essentially to anticipate something means to take before or to take in advance.
- c. We have an amazing inheritance and through hope we have access to more than we have experienced.
- d. Through hope we can anticipate what God is doing and reach out and take it.
- e. Anticipating hope lets us grow past our experience because it is not limited by history.
- f. Hope reaches into the future and lets us enjoy all God has available for us.
- g. Through hope the impossible becomes reasonable.
- h. Mary at the wedding feast in Cana anticipated Jesus' ministry.
 - i. When they ran out of wine, she told Jesus the problem and
 - ii. He responded that it was not the time.
 - iii. But Mary was not put off;
 - iv. she simply turned to the servants and told them to do whatever He said to do.
 - v. She had a living hope that accessed resources beyond the circumstance.
 - vi. Jesus responded by performing His first miracle.
 - vii. Mary's hope touched the compassionate love of the Savior.
- i. This willingness on the part of Jesus to trouble Himself to meet the needs of others is a key component in a revival culture.