

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Essence of Hope June 18, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

Divine hope is infused with an indispensable quality that enables us to lay hold of the future and boldly advance. It opens our eyes to see what cannot be seen without hope. It is the quality that connects us to our future. Hope is core to the spiritual war that we are in right now in our city and nation.

Hebrews 11.1 NKJV

¹ Now faith is the substance [realization] of **things hoped for**, the evidence [confidence] of things not seen.

Hope is a spiritual entity, meaning it is something that exists. It is tangible in the spirit realm. Hope speaks; it has a narrative that frames your future – it creates a gateway that you walk through and connects you to resources to build your future. Hope has a governing dynamic that guides you into the future. Receive the truth of hope and the fullness of all that comes with it in your heart of hearts. Hope filters and guides your steps. Hope advances and builds. Hope is a dynamic that you walk in and conform to. Our lives are shaped by the hope that we hold. Intentionally give yourself to the hope of God.

God put hope in Abraham's heart. Hope for a future that was beyond the land of Ur of the Chaldees. When hope is implanted, faith comes with it. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. When Abraham parted ways with his cousin Lot, God told Abraham to lift his eyes and look from where you are and see what I have for you. God is saying that same thing to us and to our city – there is hope that God has instilled in your heart. Let that hope be formed and defined by Holy Spirit. Unite with the hope of God – that hope forms a gateway to your future. Renew your mind through hope. Receive the truth of the hope of God down into the core of your being so that you become a carrier of hope. Hope from God is from the Tree of Life and it contains the framework for abundant life.

Hope rooted in the world contains corruption and condemnation. Every word that is being spoken out of the systems of the world is filled with an agenda – most often a political agenda. A political agenda is NOT the essence or core value of hope. We are in a position right now where anything in our lives – work, relationships, finances, the dollar, health – can suddenly and dramatically shift. Your hope cannot be filled with the promises of culture or anything that would be sourced in the current world system. The world system is not sustainable – it has many flaws; many agendas, and it is filled with works of darkness.

Life-giving hope comes from God alone.

Colossians 1.5-6, 9-11 TPT

⁵ **Your faith and love rise within you as you access all the treasures of your inheritance** stored up in the heavenly realm. For the revelation of the true gospel is as real today as the day you first heard of our **glorious hope**, now that you have believed in the truth of the gospel.

⁶ This is the wonderful message that is being spread everywhere, powerfully changing hearts throughout the earth, just like it has changed you! Every believer of this good news bears the fruit of eternal life as they **experience the reality of God's grace**.

⁹ Since we first heard about you, we've kept you always in our prayers that you would **receive the perfect knowledge of God's pleasure over your lives, making you reservoirs of every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding**. ¹⁰ We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll **become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness!**

¹¹ And we pray that you would **be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope**.

- Receive the perfect knowledge of God’s pleasure of your life – this feeds the hope that God has put in your heart!
 - Fully loved. Fully accepted. Fully alive in Christ.
 - Cares and stress of life melting away like wax as you embrace the hope God has put in your heart.
 - Fragmentation removed in hope.
 - Be energized.
 - Let your heart soar with joyful gratitude.

Hebrews 6.19 TPT

¹⁹ **We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor** holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold,

Romans 12.12 TPT

¹² **Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don’t give up in a time of trouble,** but commune with God at all times.

2 Corinthians 3.12 TPT

¹² So then, with this **amazing hope living in us, we step out in freedom and boldness** to speak the truth.

Psalms 33.20 TPT

²⁰ **The Lord alone is our radiant hope** and we trust in him with all our hearts. His wraparound presence will strengthen us.

Romans 4.18 TPT

¹⁸ **Against all odds, when it looked hopeless, Abraham believed the promise** and expected God to fulfill it. He took God at his word, and as a result he became the father of many nations. God’s declaration over him came to pass: “Your descendants will be so many that they will be impossible to count!”

TIMELINE

Christina Wilson

I today! Right now is the time for righteousness to arise! (Hosea 10.12) **I**mitators of God, walking in love as Christ loved us. (Ephesians 5.1-3) **M**aking disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. (Matthew 28.19) **E**ncouraging each other to never be stubborn or hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. (Hebrews 3.31) **L**ife! Life! Life! Every fountain of delight springs up from your life within Me! (Psalm 87.7b) **I**ntercession made by the Spirit of God, according to His will. That His Kingdom come, that His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. (Romans 8.36-27) **N**ations glad and singing for joy, for you, God, will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations of the earth. (Psalm 67.4) **E**xalt the Name of Jesus!!! If I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself. (John 12.32)

DECLARATION

From Psalm 31.14-19 NKJV:

¹⁴ But as for Detroit, we trust in You, O LORD; we say, “You are our God.” ¹⁵ Our times are in Your hand; deliver Detroit from the hand of our enemies, and from those who persecute us. ¹⁶ Make Your face shine upon Detroit and the people of this city; save us for Your mercies’ sake. ¹⁷ Do not let us be ashamed, O LORD, for we have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave. ¹⁸ Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. ¹⁹ Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You.

You alone are the hope of our city and our future! Your hope forms our future, and we conform to our God-given future that hope holds. God, You are our hope!