



## 2020 – CG Notes #09

### Be A Hope Bearer

*These notes are from a message brought by Ps. Craig Maher on Sunday 26 April 2020 at the Global 5:30pm Service.*

#### Key verse:

**Isaiah 50:10 (AMP)** *Who is among you who [reverently] fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet who walks in darkness and deep trouble and has no shining splendour [in his heart]? Let him rely on, trust in, and be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon and be supported by his God.*

Ps Craig said “It is possible to have great reverent fear of the Lord, and even live a life of obedience to His word; and yet not live in the fullness of all He has promised.”

**Discuss:** *Consider Ps Craig’s quote above - why do you think this may be the case?*

Psalm 42 & 43 both end exactly the same . . . **Psalm 42:11 & Psalm 43:5 (NIV)** *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Saviour and my God.*

Both Psalms speak about conflict & trouble with people and struggle & fear within and both employ the same strategy of stirring up HOPE - Speaking to yourself. We all need encouragement, but we also all need to take responsibility to ‘stir up’ the hope the promises of God give.

The Apostle Paul shares about being downcast because of people and circumstances ...

**2 Corinthians 7:5-7 (NIV)** *For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn – conflicts on the outside, fears within. <sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him ...*

CONFLICT ON THE OUTSIDE & FEAR WITHIN ... *We can all identify with that!*

## Share:

- Have you experienced a time when you had conflict on the outside and fear within? If you're comfortable share with one another. How did you find hope?

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.*

## We need to develop a consistent strategy and practice of hope - How?

**Isaiah 50:10b (AMP)** ...Let him rely on, trust in, *and* be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon *and* be supported by his God.

## Consider & Discuss how are you:

- Relying On
- Trusting In
- Being Confident ... in the name of the Lord! (*These sound a lot like "hope"*)
- Leaning Upon
- And being supported by God. (*These last two sound a lot like "faith"*)

**Romans 5:5 (NKJV)** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

## What matters most is not how much hope you have, but the source of your hope.

Hope is more than a motivational thought or a fading daydream—*hope is a nothing-is-impossible-with-God* firestorm refusing to be quenched. It's an awareness that God is actually expecting, looking and longing to show you His great goodness.

*Hope* is what stabilizes our frantic thoughts and emotions—it's an awareness that there is no problem big enough to keep God from rescuing you.

These days, it's easy to be worn down by hopelessness. People lose hope when they experience overwhelming loss, repeated failures, constant change & restrictions, or when they're hurt by people they trust.

Hope is a positive expectation that something good is going to happen to you because God is good. Hope is not a wishy-washy, vague, wait-and-see attitude, but an action we must choose to take on purpose each day.

## Hope and faith go hand in hand.

Hope also enables us to **endure hardships and long waiting periods**, and God uses these times to develop character and endurance in us.

**Psalm 27:14 (AMP)** *Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.*

**Charles R. Swindoll** – *When you accept the fact that sometimes seasons are dry and times are hard and that God is in control of both, you will discover a sense of divine refuge, because the hope then is in God and not in yourself.*

**Hope dares us to believe!** It thinks, *you know what? Things might just work out after all.*

It's the sometimes unexplainable, but always undeniable, *feeling that today would be a bad day to give up.*

**Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)** *But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

**Dare to be hopeful...BE A HOPE BEARER!** Regardless of who you are or what condition your life is in, you can't function successfully in life without hope in God.

Hope energizes and motivates us to **ACTION** by causing us to **step out in faith** and **act in obedience with God's Word**.

**Hope:**

- **believes boldly**
- **decides daringly**
- **speaks securely**
- **perseveres passionately**

When we employ a strategy of hope on purpose, it influences our thoughts, our attitudes, our outlook and the way we speak. Hope **builds us up** as we wait on God.

Hope releases **JOY**, and the joy of the Lord becomes our source of strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

**Discuss:**

- How does a song like "Anchor" & a scripture like Romans 15:13 help us to develop a consistent strategy of hope?

**"Anchor"** Hillsong Worship **Album: Glorious Ruins Released: 2013**

I have this hope as an anchor for my soul  
Through every storm, I will hold to You.  
With endless love, all my fear is swept away  
In everything, I will trust in You.

There is hope in the promise of the cross.  
You gave everything to save the world You love;  
And this hope is an anchor for my soul.  
Our God will stand Unshakeable.

Unchanging One.  
You, who was, and is to come,  
Your promise sure, You will not let go  
Your Name is higher, Your Name is greater.  
All my hope is in You.

Your word unfailing,  
Your promise unshaken  
All my hope is in You.

**Romans 15:13 (NIV)** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*