

Hope - Week 2

Endurance Inspired by Hope

May 23 & 24, 2009
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*We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and **your endurance inspired by hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NIV)*

FOUR BIBLICAL RESPONSES TO HOPELESSNESS

1. Seek Out the Love of God

*When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had been captured... David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. **But David found strength in the LORD his God.** 1 Samuel 30:3-6 (NIV)*

2. Repent of My Bad Attitude

*Why has my pain become unending,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
You truly have become like a mirage to me—
water that is not reliable.*

Therefore, this is what the Lord says:

If you return, I will restore you;

you will stand in My presence.

And if you speak noble [words],

rather than worthless ones,

you will be My spokesman.

It is they who must return to you;

you must not return to them.

Then I will make you a fortified wall of bronze

to this people.

They will fight against you

but will not overcome you,

for I am with you

to save you and deliver you... Jeremiah 15:18-20 (HCSB)

3. Stop Relying on Human Solutions

*We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. **But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God,** who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 (NIV)*

4. Praise God Regardless of the Outcome

*How long, O LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?*

*I heard and my heart pounded,
my lips quivered at the sound;
decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled.*

*Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us.*

**Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,**

though the olive crop fails

and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen

and no cattle in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the LORD,

I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength;

he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,

he enables me to go on the heights.

Habakkuk 1:2 & 3:16-19 (NIV)