

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF H O P E

*"And now these three remain: faith, **hope** and love." 1 Corinthians 13:13*

I. THE _____ WITH DISCOURAGEMENT

EVERY LEADER IN THE BIBLE HAD TO BOUNCE BACK....

- MOSES: Ministry Failure
- MOSES: Lack of Encouragement
- JOHN MARK: Rejection by a Christian Leader
- NEHEMIAH: Discouragement with Circumstances
- PETER: Discouragement with Self
- JESUS: Discouragement with People
- JOSEPH: Mistreatment from Dysfunctional Family
- ELIJAH: Personal Criticism
- LAZARUS: Being Dead!

II. THE _____ OF DISCOURAGEMENT

*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if** we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9*

5 FACTS REGARDING DISCOURAGEMENT

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

"They said to me, 'Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.'" Nehemiah 1:4

III. REPLACING DISCOURAGEMENT WITH _____

1. REFRESH _____!

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. O Lord God of heaven, **the great and awesome** God who **keeps His covenant of love** with those who love Him and obey His command." Nehemiah 1:4-5

- It will take _____ that I don't have!
- It will take _____ that I don't have!
- It will take _____ that I don't have!
- It will take _____ that I don't have!
- It will take _____ that I don't have!

2. _____!

"But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard it, they mocked us and despised us and said, 'What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?' So I answered them and said to them, 'The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.'" Nehemiah 2:19-20

3. _____

"The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants **will arise and build**, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem." Nehemiah 2:120

4. _____

- _____ Nehemiah 4:10 "the strength of the laborers is giving out..."
- _____ Nehemiah 4:10 "...we cannot rebuild the wall!"
- _____ Nehemiah 4:10 "...and there is so much rubble..."
- _____ Nehemiah 4:11 "Also our enemies said, 'Before they know it or see us ...we will kill them and put an end to their work!'"

"So we continued to work..." Nehemiah 4:21

Calvin Coolidge said: "Press on. Nothing can take the place of persistence. Talent will not. Nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not. Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not. The world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are the overwhelming power."

5. _____

"After I looked things over I stood up and I said to the nobles and the officials the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid! **Remember the Lord** is great and awesome. **Fight for your brothers and your daughters and your homes.**" Nehemiah 4: 14

"So the wall was completed...in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God." Nehemiah 6:16

Daily Meditations

This week's memory verse:

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. Psalm 62:5-6

Monday

Read over the memory verse for this week. What is one thing that really stood out to you in the sermon last weekend and why?

Which of the biblical leaders did you relate most to and why? How has that struggle impacted your hope?

Write down one issue relating to hope that you would like to see a breakthrough in this week.

Thank God today that He is your source of hope. Rejoice in the fact that He is sufficient for all your needs. Ask Him to open your heart to the lessons in hope that He has for you this week.

Tuesday

Read Exodus 6:1-6 & Nehemiah 1:1-3. What are the effects of discouragement in these verses? Which of the five facts about discouragement (from the notes) trips you up most?

Read Galatians 6:9. In what way are you currently struggling with "becoming weary in doing good"? Recall a time in the past when you struggled with being weary but eventually reaped the harvest. How can that encourage you in your current situation?

Thank God today for the honesty of scripture and the for the promises. Talk to Him about the area(s) you are struggling with weariness. Ask Him to increase your hope in His promises and find strength for today in that.

Wednesday

Read Nehemiah 1:4-5, Psalm 63:1, 116:6-8 & Lamentations 3:18-24. Write down at least four things you see about hope and refreshment in these verses.

It can be difficult in the busyness of life to make refreshment of your spirit and soul a priority. How do these verses encourage you to do that and, specifically, how will you be sure that happens?

How do you think a refreshed spirit helps you be hopeful?

Thank God today that He can refresh your spirit in a way that goes beyond your circumstances. Ask Him to help you prioritize a regular time to refresh your spirit. Ask God to develop the attitude of hope in you.

Thursday

Read Nehemiah 2:19-20, Psalm 16:2, Proverbs 3:5 & Isaiah 26:4. What connection is there between relying on God and hope?

Reread Proverbs 3:5. If you are trusting in the Lord with all your heart it does not leave any room for relying on yourself! What hinders you from relying on God?

How do the verses you read today encourage your hope and encourage you to rely on God.

Thank God today that you do not have to rely on yourself for hope. Ask Him to help you rely fully on Him and rest in His care. Pray that your trust in Him will grow hope in your life.

Friday

Read Isaiah 40:28-31. What great verses of hope these are! After a week of focusing on your hope in God how can you now turn outward and encourage those around you with the hope you have found?

Thank God today for His strength and hope. Ask Him to keep you ever-aware of where you've placed your hope. Pray that your attitude of hopefulness will be contagious and an encouragement to those around you.

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend and our guest speaker Jim Burns. Thanks!