

BEYOND OK

Part 4: Keeping Hope Alive

THE NEED FOR HOPE (A POSITIVE EXPECTATION)

A. Places we need hope

1. Families: Loved ones can be the strongest pull on our hearts
2. A sense of purpose: That our lives actually do matter
3. That things will turn out well for us: Not just a chance, but a good chance

B. Where do we source this hope

1. People in our lives
2. Our history and experiences
3. Our relationship with God

C. Godly hope, our anchor *(Hebrews 6:19 NKJV)*

1. Anchors keep ships from drifting and being moved off course from ocean currents
2. Our hope (expectation) from God keeps our souls from drifting
 - a. Drifting into despair and a sense of despondency
 - b. Our hope in God keeps us from being moved off course from currents of life

WHEN HOPE WAS REALIZED *(John 5:2-9 NKJV)*

A. An actual pool of hope (Bethesda means “house of mercy”)

1. God had a place where the sick could be healed
2. A place of supernatural hope - when the angel stirred the water

B. A man barely holding onto hope

1. He had been there for 38 years - but he kept coming
2. May have been more aware of his limitations than anything else
 - a. He had no one to help him

C. An intervention of the God-kind

1. Jesus finds him and asks a seemingly obvious question
2. The man answered out of his frustration
 - a. But to his credit he stayed by the pool
3. Jesus cut through everything and changed his life
 - a. Cut through the waiting, frustration, lack of help
 - b. He walked away healed - hope fulfilled, realized

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE IN YOUR LIFE - NO HOPE IS NOT OK

A. Stay close to hope (hope environments)

1. Way too many things steal and drain us of hope
 - a. Bombarded by news, people, circumstances
 - b. The more we look the less we expect something good
2. A hope infusion- keeping the hope always coming
 - a. Personal devotion time (Lord's Prayer, 23rd psalm) *(Psalm 23 NKJV)*
 - b. Church - a spiritual pool of Bethesda, a house of mercy

B. Don't identify with your limitations

1. Personal limitations... I don't have, I've never been, I've always been, etc.
2. Circumstantial limitations... no one to help me, the government, the company
 - a. All of these things can be factors in our lives but not the source of our hope *(1 Peter 1:21 NKJV)*
 - b. God is bigger than all the limiting factors in my life

C. Choose to believe that God will help you

1. He can intervene like no one else and can do what no one else can do
2. We keep hope alive by continuing to look to Him
 - a. Big question: what do you believe about _____
3. We can always go back to the very basis of our hope *(1 Peter 1:3 NKJV)*
 - a. If God raised Jesus from the dead then He can help me

Hebrews 6:19 (NKJV)

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

John 5:2-9 (NKJV)

2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5 Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

7 The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9 And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath.

Psalms 23 (NKJV)

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

3 He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
Forever.

1 Peter 1:21 (NKJV)

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,