

Doing a 180
Week 1- Soaring rather than Sinking
2/26/06

Hope deferred makes the heart sick... *Proverbs chapter 13, verse 12 (489)*

But with eager hope, All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as His children, including the new bodies He has promised us. Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't have yet, we must wait patiently and confidently.

Romans chapter 8, verses 20-25 (862)

1. Hopeless people tend to believe that their problems are...

- ✍ Permanent – never going to end
- ✍ All – encompassing- will undermine my life
- ✍ Personal- its all my fault

Q. How often do you find yourself slipping into this thinking?

***Jesus said that in this life I would have trouble but he promised His hope.

2. God's Hope is present in every situation!

- Adam & Eve sinned. - God promised a redeemer.
- God sends a flood. - He sent the rainbow as promise.
- Israel is wandering in the desert- God drops bread from heaven.
- When Elijah felt lonely & isolated.- He heard God's quiet whisper, I am with you, you are not alone"
- When Jeremiahs' preaching was ignored.- God told him-
For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah chapter 29, verse eleven (596)

The Biblical concept of hope is a positive outlook toward an expected end. Biblical hope is not focused on what might happen but what must happen.

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3. God's hope offers more than just a change of circumstances & feelings.

And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart.

Ezekiel chapter36, verse26 (654)

- ✍ God is aware of your painful circumstances & broken heart.
- ✍ His plan is to change you rather than the things around you.
- ✍ God sees the big picture that we often can not see.
- ✍ Do you use God like a vending machine looking for different circumstances & feelings or when you pray do ask for heart change as well?

4. “we must wait patiently” - Romans chapter 8, verse 25

- ✍ How well do you wait?
- ✍ While you are waiting what are you doing?
- ✍ Are you complaining while you're waiting?
- ✍ Remember God's patience with us.
- ✍ When God wants you to move do you accept His direction?

In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me.

Jeremiah chapter 29, verses 12-13(596)

5. “we must wait patiently & confidently” – Romans chapter 8, verse 25

- ✍ Don't give up & keep obeying.
- ✍ Pray expectantly and ask others to pray for you.
- ✍ Read & re-read God's promises in the Bible.
- ✍ As your confidence in God increases your fear decreases.
- ✍ Joy comes when I am faithful!

Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

Hebrews chapter 10, verses 35-36 (926)

Next week: Thanking Instead of Complaining.