

# 4Ws live in hope

## PROCLAIM HOPE

MAY 16, 2021

### WORSHIP

In Control, Lord I Lift  
Your Name on High,  
I Lift My Hands

### WELCOME

What was the most  
surprising proclama-  
tion on social media or  
elsewhere that you've  
witnessed recently?

### WORD

#### 1 PETER 2:9

⁹ **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

**(READ 1 PETER 2:4-25  
FOR FULL CONTEXT)**

We continue on with our series on Live in Hope. Last week, we learned that living hope is not just wishful thinking, and that one aspect of it is its effect on our transformation. Having this hope transforms us to be set apart for God.

A set-apart person proclaims something; whether we are aware of it or not, we are all proclaiming something. The things we post or share on our social media: funny videos, a cat video, or a recipe we would like to try—these reflect things that we are proclaiming. When life throws us curve balls, and we don't know what's happening, knowing that God is in control, and has our future secure makes a difference. Knowing that should move us to proclaim this hope that we have. To proclaim hope we have to understand:

#### 1. WHO YOU ARE

In 1 Peter 2:4-8 we are referred to as **living stones** and a **royal priesthood**. Peter was referring to Jesus as the Living Cornerstone who was rejected by men, but is precious in God's eyes (**Isaiah 28:16**). A cornerstone is the first stone laid in building construction, and serves as its sturdy foundation. Jesus is our chief cornerstone. He is our foundation, and we are all living stones. We are not like lithops, succulents that just look like stones, but we are living stones that go about our roles as a royal priesthood. In olden times people had to go to a priest to be interceded for, but as living stones we now have direct access to God and can also intercede for others!

The second part of **1 Peter 2:6** says "**and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.**" Have you ever been disappointed? Today many things disappoint us. In life, if something is too good to be true, prepare to be disappointed, because it probably is too good to be true. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and we did nothing to deserve it. That sounds too good to be true, but God delivers on His promise! Jesus is the chief cornerstone to those who believe. But for those who don't believe, He is a stumbling block because these people don't want to align their lives to the intended original design. God desires for all to come to know him (**John 3:16**), but the fact is not everyone will say yes to God. If you don't believe in Him, you will always be disappointed.

#### 2. WHY YOU ARE

**1 Peter 2:9** starts with "**But you are a chosen people...**" Have you heard of the expression "I'm looking for my people?" The truth is people are looking to belong. God makes us different. God sets us apart so we have something in common with all the believers around the world of all races and cultures; even with those who have gone ahead of us to our Heavenly home. We as one body can together proclaim Christ's light. The word "**proclaim**" in Greek translates to "**exaggello**", which means "to announce something". What are we to proclaim? We proclaim Christ's light and excellencies to those around us. Some may read this and say that God is egotistical. The truth is God does not need our worship, but when we worship Him and see Him, we experience what we are meant and made to be. Proclaiming God is not God being selfish, but out of love for Him, we proclaim His excellencies.

Similar to our experience with a brownout; this is a time where we suddenly realize the importance of light. Sometimes, we

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forget how it was like when God rescued us from darkness. Maybe there is sin in us or a passion that distracts us from God's light. The good news is that there is a way to get out of that darkness, and it's simply to go to God.

#### 3. HOW YOU LIVE

When we think about proclaiming, we immediately think about telling people about God, or by our good deeds. However, there is a third way of being able to proclaim him, and that is by abstaining. Addictions, losing our temper, and our fleshly lust distract us and darken our hearts. Instead of giving in to these distractions, we are commanded in **1 Peter 1:15-16** to be holy, and to live out our holiness. When we live in holiness, we live and glorify God better. How can we proclaim God by the way we live? 1.) With the help of the Holy Spirit, we are able to say "no" to fleshly lust. 2.) We replace fleshly lust with a passion for the Lord. We resist temptation because we love the Lord. Sometimes, when we behave with such excellence it will result to us being slandered (**1 Peter 2:12**), but as these people continue to observe us they may be changed themselves.

Another way to proclaim God is by submitting to our authorities.

**1 Peter 2:13-14** says, **"<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people."** There is always someone above us: our parents, our teachers, the government, etc. The Bible says that we are to submit to our authorities, even to those who are unreasonable, for the Lord's sake, because by submitting we are doing what is right. However, if our authority wants us to commit a sinful act, we can ask God for wisdom how we can respectfully refuse to do so, because we want to honor the Lord. If we suffer by doing what is good and right for God's sake, God promises that this finds favor with Him (**1 Peter 2:20**) and we can trust Him to take care of us.

#### 4. WHAT HE DID

Jesus suffered unjustly, though we were the ones who were supposed to suffer because of the wrong things we have done. Because Jesus left us an example, we too can suffer for the Lord's sake. When we find ourselves in a tough situation, we do not revile, but we keep doing what is right, and entrust ourselves to Him who judges righteously (**1 Peter 2:22-23**). Jesus suffered unjustly when he bore our sins (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). **1 Peter 2:24** says **"by His wounds, you we were healed."** What did God heal us from; what was our sickness? We used to be alive in sin and dead in righteousness. But when Christ rescued us by dying in our place, He made us dead to sin and alive in righteousness. This means that though we are still tempted to sin because of our old sinful nature, we no longer turn to the destructive pleasures of sin. We needed healing because, like sheep, we kept running away from God. But now, as genuine believers we have returned to the Shepherd who watches over us and provides us what we need. Our inheritance is waiting for us and is protected by Jesus Christ, the Guardian of our souls. Because of Christ's finished work of redemption, we have a higher reason for saying "no" to sinful and distracting passions. Because of Jesus, we are able to say "yes" to the greatest passion of proclaiming Him to those around us. If that does not yet resonate with you, come to God, He will never disappoint you.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

#### 1. Self-Check.

Is there anything in your life that gets in the way of proclaiming Him?

#### 2. Setting It Right

What authority has God placed in your life that you find hard to submit to? Why?

#### 3. Living It Out

In light of these two questions, what can you do this week to proclaim Him?

### WORKS

#### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray to see opportunities to proclaim God this week. As a royal priesthood, find ways to be able to pray for those around you and witness by living a set-apart life. Share Christ's transforming hope to as many as you can this week!

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, A holy nation, a people For god's own possession,** so that you may proclaim The excellencies of Him Who has called you out Of darkness into his Marvelous light;

**1 Peter 2:9**