

# FEARLESS: NEVER GIVE UP HOPE

JUNE 6, 2021

## WORSHIP

Let the Praises Ring,  
Here I Am to Worship,  
Blessed Assurance

## WELCOME

What are the seemingly impossible things that you are hoping for today?

## WORD

### READ IT!

#### 1 PETER 4:7-16

<sup>7</sup>The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. <sup>8</sup>Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Be hospitable to one another without complaint. <sup>10</sup>As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. <sup>11</sup>Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup>but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; <sup>16</sup>but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

### PARAPHRASE IT!

Restate the verses in your own words.

### TALK ABOUT IT!

- What did you like about these verses?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about following Christ?
- How did these verses help you to not give up your hope in Christ?

### POINT IT OUT!

God through His Word strengthens our heart to never give up hope in a relationship, a prayer request, a decision to obey, your marriage, being a Christian, or even in life itself. In the Bible, God told us His Name is “**I AM**” and with that we can trust that He is the God of the **I-M-POSSIBLE (Ephesians 3:20)**.

“How can I suffer and still have hope” when you’re put in a position to either compromise or stand for truth or when your Christianity is tested and humiliated? Do you just remain silent or do you speak the truth in love? If you find yourself not having experienced them, it could be that you have not declared your faith to others or you are living a life of compromise and shame. Today we continue our series on **Fearless** and learn three principles from **1 Peter 4** on how we never give up hope amid suffering:

#### 1. REFOCUS YOUR MIND ON JESUS (1 PETER 4:1-6)

Jesus himself suffered opposition (**1 Peter 4:1**). He also faced all kinds of humiliation on the road to Calvary. Because Jesus experienced them, He is able to understand and empathize with us when we go through suffering (**Hebrews 4:15**). It is also a reminder that we as followers of Christ are not exempt from suffering. We are to arm ourselves because we are in a daily battle. The more we say no to sin the more we will suffer; however, the more we rely on God, we will sin less and less (**1 Peter 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3**). When we surrender to Him, the greater our victory over sin. Suffering can make us more like Christ!

**Verse 3** gives us a list of sins that may describe our former life. Oftentimes, living according to the former sinful nature and indulging in sin is easier than being a committed Christian. Interestingly, in **Joshua 2:8-21** we read of the story of Rahab, a harlot from Jericho who hid the spies sent by Joshua, signifying her faith in the God of Israel. The spies promised Rahab that they will spare Rahab and her family. She is to hang a rope with a scarlet thread from her window on the day they conquer Jericho. The Hebrew word used for rope is **tikvah**. In other verses such as **Jeremiah 29:11** **tikvah** translates as **hope**. Thus, Biblical hope is something real enough that we can hold on to it. Just as the scarlet thread tied to the rope was Rahab’s hope, our relationship with God is like holding on to a strong rope. **Even when we can’t see what’s ahead, we know Who’s above!** Hope is not based on circumstances. It is based on a person, Jesus Christ! Biblical hope is confidently looking toward God for our future, trusting him in our present, and relying on

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His faithfulness in our past. The apostle Peter reminds us that our suffering here on earth is but a **brief moment** and is nothing compared to the glorious eternity that is waiting for us. **Hope is refocusing our minds on Jesus and eternity.**

### 2. RESPOND IN LOVE FOR OTHERS (1 PETER 4:7-11)

**1 Peter 4:7** says the end of all things is near. We don't know when that is but the passage encourages us to be of sober judgment and spirit. Keep a clear head for the purpose of prayer. Peter reminds us that in the midst of our suffering, we don't crawl into a corner and cry. We are to think of others and to respond in love like Christ. In this time of uncertainty and overwhelming challenges, we can begin reaching out by praying for those who may be in different parts of the globe. Send them a message that God loves them and that we are praying for them. **1 Peter 4:8** says "Above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins." Our love is to be so passionate that it enables us to forgive those that have offended us. This doesn't mean we tolerate sin, but we still lovingly point out to them what is morally right. Peter also encourages us to be hospitable (**v.9**). It may not be possible to host people in our homes today but we can meet their needs in other ways! We are to serve one another also with the gifts that were given to us (**v.10**) like sharing God's truth with someone or showing mercy by listening to other people's burdens and praying with them. God has commissioned us to be his hands and mouthpiece that we may serve others. We must respond in love for others in prayer, fervent love, and service, as we are representatives of Jesus in this broken and fallen world. Our words make a difference especially when they express the words of God (**v.11**). **Hope is responding to others in love.**

### 3. REJOICE (1 PETER 4:12-19)

Peter reminds us in **verse 12** that our faith will be tested through suffering. Our faith in Christ is like a parachute. Just like a real parachute, it may not seem comfortable because it is bulky and cumbersome but it gives us peace. It is comparable with the hope we have in our salvation. It gives us peace that leads to rejoicing. **1 Peter 4:14** warns us that we may be reviled and hated and be rejected (**John 15:18-19**) as we follow Christ. Being hated and reviled for doing what is right is a sign that we are doing what God wants us to do. God is looking for men and women who are not afraid to identify themselves publicly as followers of Christ (**1 Peter 4:16**). Hold on to the God of hope through this parachute of faith (**1 Peter 4:19**). Don't give up your faith. Rahab and her family were saved as the spies kept their word. The scarlet thread was tied in the rope, but the hope of Rahab was tied to her heart. She is listed as one of the heroes of faith (**Hebrews 11:31**) and included in Christ's genealogy (**Matthew 1:5**). You and I may have a colorful past, but God can change our past into a Christ-filled present and future. Jesus' bloodline is our lifeline (**Hebrews 9:22**). God is throwing us a lifeline of hope. He's offering you hope of forgiveness and eternity in His presence through the sacrificial death of Jesus for you. Our hope in God consists of God's person, God's plan, God's power, God's promises, God's faithfulness and God's preeminence. If you need hope, never give up. **Hold on to God because He is the rope of your salvation!**

## WORKS

### APPLY IT!

Based on this lesson on FEARLESS: NEVER GIVE UP HOPE, write down your action point to apply what you learned. Make it your "I will..." statement and follow the S.M.A.R.T. guideline to come up with a do-able action point.

Simple  
Measurable  
Appropriate  
Realistic  
Time-bound

"I will \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### SHARE IT!

Who will you share these truths to this week?

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will reveal people whom you can encourage and point to the hope that can only be found in Jesus. Share about the "scarlet thread" of the gospel—how Jesus shed His blood on the cross to save us from hopelessness and eternal destruction.

## 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>16</sup> but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

**1 PETER 4:16**

