

FEARLESS:

NEVER

GIVE UP HOPE

With all that has been going on, have you ever asked the question “How can I suffer and still have hope?” Today we continue our series on Fearless, and from 1 Peter 4 we learn three principles how we can never give up hope amid suffering:

refocus your mind on Jesus (1 PETER 4:1-6)

Jesus himself suffered opposition and all kinds of humiliation on the road to Calvary. Since Jesus went through such anguish, He can understand and empathize with us when we go through suffering (Hebrews 4:15). Just as Christ suffered, we who believe and follow Him are to be ready to suffer too. We are to arm ourselves and no longer live for our human desires and former ways. We are to live for the will of God. In Joshua 2:8-21, we read of the story of Rahab, a harlot from Jericho. Rahab hid the spies sent by Joshua, signifying how she has put her faith in the God of Israel. The spies promised Rahab that on the day they conquer Jericho, they will spare Rahab and her family, identifying her by a rope of scarlet hung from her window. In this passage, the Hebrew word used for rope is “*tikvah*” which is translated as “hope” in other bible verses such as in Jeremiah 29:11. Just as the scarlet cord was Rahab’s hope, our relationship with God is like holding on to a strong rope. Even when we cannot see what is ahead, we know Who is 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 His faithfulness in our past. Our suffering here on earth is but a moment compared to the glorious eternity that is waiting for us.

respond in love for others (1 PETER 4:7-11)

1 Peter 4:7 says the end of all things is near and that we need to be of sober judgment and spirit for the purpose of prayer. Peter reminds us that amid our suffering, we do not just crawl into a corner and cry, instead we are to think of others, and to respond like Christ with love. 1 Peter 4:8 continues to

this week's memory verse

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

1 PETER 5:6-7

FEARLESS: NEVER GIVE UP HOPE

say, “Above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.” This means that our love is to be so passionate that it enables us to forgive those that have offended us. This does not mean we tolerate sin, but we still lovingly point out to them what is morally right. Peter also encourages us to be hospitable and to serve one another with the gifts that were given to us by God. It could be as simple as 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 are to 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.

rejoice (1 PETER 4:12-19)

Peter reminds us that our faith is tested through suffering. Our faith in Christ is like a parachute. Wearing a parachute is not comfortable because it is bulky and cumbersome, but it gives us peace. It is comparable with the hope we have in our salvation – following Christ may be filled with challenges and trials along the way but it gives us peace that leads to rejoicing. As we follow Christ and pursue a life of righteousness, we may be reviled and hated just as Christ was rejected and persecuted for doing the will of God. It is easier to live as everyone in the world does, but we must take heart! God is looking for men and women who are not afraid to identify themselves publicly as followers of Christ (1 Peter 4:16). When life around us seems to be crashing, we keep on doing what is right, trusting our lives to God because He will never fail us (1 Peter 4:19).

God today is throwing us a lifeline of hope. He is offering us the hope of forgiveness and eternity in His presence through the sacrificial death of Jesus. If today you need hope, never give up. Hold on to God because He is the rope of your salvation!

discussion questions

In what ways have you experienced suffering as a Christian and how has it turned out to be a blessing?

During this time of crisis, what have you done (or still plan to do) to share your faith with others?

How will you encourage someone who is considering giving up all hope in life?

join us online

Sundays

9:00 AM, 12:00 NN, 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM

 ccf.org.ph

 [/ccfmain](https://www.facebook.com/ccfmain)

 [YouTube @CCFmainTV](https://www.youtube.com/@CCFmainTV)

join us on tv and radio

Visit

ccf.org.ph/live/broadcast-channels

for the list of broadcast TV channels and radio stations.