

Dare to Hope Again

Scripture: Lamentations 3:21-23 (NIV)

Let's be real, hope is a small word but can sometimes feel dangerous or even like a scam. It's easy to say but harder to feel when life has punched you dead in the throat. When your prayers don't seem to be heard, when the marriage falls apart, when your career doesn't work out the way you wanted. When you've been lied to, betrayed, left behind, knocked down and so on.

When life just keeps raging and doesn't tap out. At some point hope starts to fade away and bitterness begins to move in and take residence in our hearts. But the Bible doesn't say give up, it says "I still dare to hope."

It's not the weak cotton candy kind of hope. Not the fairytale Mickey Mouse kind of hope, but the rugged, battle tested, scar proven, Kingdom Warrior kind of hope.

1. Hope is a Choice Not a Feeling

Hope doesn't deny reality it defies it. Look at Jerimiah, he was knee deep in devastation. Jerusalem was in complete ruins, and all hope was on life support. Notice he didn't write. Everything is ok, I'm good. No, he wrote "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope."

He didn't feel hopeful. He chose to be hopeful. I know that sometimes you may not feel like believing again. You may not feel like trusting again. You know what, that's entirely ok. Feelings are real but don't let them have the final say. Don't let them paralyze you and get you stuck there. Have the faith and the hope that chooses to believe that God is bigger than any reality you're facing right now.

2. God's Compassion Resets Every Morning

"His compassions are new every morning." I must be honest with you; I believe this blessing to be monumental. We get to start fresh every day. God is not recycling yesterday's mercy. He doesn't give us leftovers. He serves fresh, hot new mercy every morning. Fresh hot grace for your fresh hot mess. That means every sunrise is God's way of saying to us, let's start over and try this again!

God's mercy is refill only. Free refills to boot. Some of you are walking around like your best days are behind you. But we all know if God wanted us done, we would be done. (I'm living proof of that)

Hope isn't denial, it's defiance. It's standing firm in the middle of the rubble of your life and saying this will not be the end of me. God is still writing my story.

Have you ever thought of this? It's not your alarm clock that wakes you up every morning, it's God's mercy. Ponder on that for a minute.

If you are still breathing, God is still working. In 2004 I spent 35 days in the ICU and nearly died three times, but I didn't because God had a different plan. He was still working in my life. I chose to put my hope in God long before the feelings of hope were present.

3. Hope is Anchored in God's Character Not Circumstances

Me personally, I chose to anchor my hope in God, not because my life was predictable, but because of how faithful God is.

If I put my hope in people, it'll crash and burn. If I put my hope in money, that will vanish, but if my hope is anchored in God, I will not be shaken.

I really like what David says in Psalms 27:13 *"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."* That's not blind optimism, that's anchored faith. That's someone who has seen way too much of God to ever stop believing.

Remember this. Hope begins with a decision. I will remember who God is. I will hold on to what He's done. I will believe He's not done yet!

You don't have to feel hope to choose it. You choose it and let the feelings catch up later. Feelings can be a little flaky sometimes, like being up one minute and the next you're sitting in the dark eating cold pizza wondering if your cats are judging you. Don't always go with your feelings. Make a choice, decide to hope again.

I understand that hope can sometimes be scary, because it makes us vulnerable. But let me say this, Hope isn't weak, it's rebellious. Hope stands in the face of despair and says you will not have the last word. Hope picks up the broken pieces and the shattered dreams and dares to believe God will still build something beautiful. Because the God that brought you this far hasn't brought you this far to leave you.

Conclusion

Have you buried your hope by chance? Have you given up on the marriage, on the relationship, or the healing, The breakthrough. Have you stopped praying in fear that it may hurt too much to hope again. Are you living in survival mode right now?

Hear this, God is not finished with you yet. Look at the tomb of Jesus. The tomb looked final until He walked out of it!

Today, I encourage you to dig up that buried hope. Clean it off and dare to believe again. Not because you're strong, but because He is. Always remember this.

- His mercies are new
- His love is relentless
- His faithfulness is great
- And your story isn't over

Allow God to breath fresh courage into your heart. To revive every dead dream. To restore your confidence.

So today I challenge you, forget that **I dare you** to hope again.

Dare to hope that the relationship can heal.

Dare to hope that grief won't swallow you up.

Dare to hope that your best days aren't behind you.

Dare to believe that hope isn't wishful thinking, but it's holy rebellion.

Dare to believe that the same God that got you through the last valley has got the next one covered to.

I Dare You to Hope Again. I truly hope you have a blessed and amazing day.

Lite Winds

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