

We've talked about having hope even when we are at our wits end, when we are ready to give up. We looked at the men on the road to Emmaus and how their hope was shattered because they didn't understand

In this study I'd like us to look at Job. Job teaches us that despite our sufferings we can still hold onto hope.

In Job 1 we read:

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

A few verses down we read in vs 6

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?"

So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

And so Satan had his way. Job lost all his children, his livestock and even his own health. He suffered a great loss emotionally and physically.

And yet, we also read that even though he suffered all this, he never cursed God and he didn't accuse God of wrong doing.

We will most likely find ourselves in a season of suffering at some point in our lives. Maybe it doesn't seem to end. It's just one thing after another. Unfortunately, this is where many people get stuck and sadly where many people give up on God. They have given up all hope. There was a time in my life that I did.....

See, It is easy to trust God when things are going well. When He answers our prayers the way we want Him to, But godly character is often formed during times of suffering. When the world around us tells us to give up all hope, our faith is made stronger as we cling to the hope we have in Christ.

How is it that when Paul and Silas were beaten, chained and thrown into prison in Philippi, they were praying and singing hymns of praise to God.? Despite their suffering, their hope in God did not waiver. Their hope wasn't in getting set free from prison or having the chains taken off. Their hope was in the Lord and who He was and what He would do. Their eyes weren't on the jailers but on Jesus.

Mercy Me. I know you're able and I know you can....sometimes that is,our greatest frustration is knowing God can do something but He chooses not to. Even if You don't my hope is you alone

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Job learned by experience the grace of God in His life. When we look at Job's life, we see there were times when his faith did waiver. He mourned. He cried. He protested. He questioned. He even cursed the day of his birth. Job definitely had his moments. Yet he says in

Job 13:15. Though He slay me. Yet I will hope in Him. Nothing would destroy his hope in God. How is that possible?

Job may not have understood why God was allowing all this suffering to take place but He knew the goodness of God and he could place his hope in the goodness of God.

Suffering is going to be part of life. Paul writes in Philippians 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, I remember the first time I read that verse...I kept repeating to myself -granted, granted to me...you mean I am supposed to think of suffering for Christ as a good thing? Like it's a gift to suffer.

Job knew His God. He writes in Job 19:25-27:

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,

He knew that no matter what happened to him his hope was in God alone and he would one day see God with his very eyes. He knew that even if the worst happened to him on this earth, that even if death came calling for him, he had that absolute hope of being with his redeemer.

But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.
My foot has held fast to his steps;
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.
I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

~Job 23:10-12

The same is true for you and me. Job treasured God's Word above all else. He knew that in spite of all his suffering, his hope was in the words of God.

We have hope and not an uncertain hope but a living hope because we trust in and serve a living God! 1 Peter 1:3-9 gives us this hope!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13 ESV).

To abound in means to flourish in, to have exceeding amounts of, to overflow with. It's only when our hearts, our minds and our eyes are fixed upon Jesus that we can abound in hope. May we learn through our trials and the things we suffer on this earth that we can overflow with hope rather than fear, we can have exceeding amounts of hope.

May we be confident in the hope we have in the Lord that no matter what disappointments, no matter who is after us, when we find ourselves on the road of loneliness when we question God's ways and don't necessarily get the answers we want may our hope remain in Jesus.

Our life on this earth is temporary. The trials and sufferings we endure will not last forever. We, as God's beloved daughters have a hope that many others do not have. We have His glorious promise that right now He is preparing a place for us and we shall dwell with Him forever and ever.

1 Corinthians 2:9 Eye has not seen nor ear heard nor have entered the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.