

**SERMON NOTES SERIES**  
**PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

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How Hope Becomes Faith



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Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,  
Pastor John

## RESOURCES USED

- \* The Companion Bible
- \* Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- \* Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- \* A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- \* Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- \* The American College Dictionary
- \* World's Bible Handbook
- \* The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- \* Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- \* The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- \* God's Plan For Man
- \* Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- \* Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- \* Manners And Customs From the Bible
- \* What The Bible Is All About
- \* Halley's Bible Handbook

*These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!*

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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## OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

*Hosea 4:6*

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

*Proverbs 23:7*

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

*Colossians 1:9*

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

*Proverbs 24:3-5*

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

*Mark 13:10*

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,  
*John and Karen Pelizzari*

## HOW HOPE BECOMES FAITH

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1. We have had an untold number of ministers preach about hope and faith.
  - a. We have definitions, steps, keys and levels to help us understand hope and faith.
2. But at what point does hope turn into faith?
  - a. Where or how does hope start?
  - b. What does a believer experience during the transition from hope to faith?
  - c. How do you recognize that you are “*in faith?*”
3. The dynamics of hope and faith are easily explained by looking at Abraham, who is generally recognized as “*the Father of Faith.*”
4. So I want to give you a step by step blueprint so that you can have an understanding of how hope turns into faith and how faith brings the results you want from God’s Word.

**Romans 4:17** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**#1. THE PROBLEM** \_\_\_\_\_

5. God promised Abraham that he would have a child but now his body is physically too old to respond.
  - a. Even if he could respond, Sarah's body is too old to bear a child.
6. The dilemma - did they blow it so bad that God's promise can no longer manifest?
  - a. Did they misunderstand what God promised and now it's too late?
  - b. So many years have gone by, did God change His mind?
  - c. Because they interfered with God's plans by using a handmaid, was the promise no longer valid?

**#2. THE PROMISE** \_\_\_\_\_

7. God told Abraham that he would be a father of many nations.

8. Because Abraham and Sarah took matters into their own hands, it threw them off course but not out of the race.
9. So now, God was obligated to intervene by using a miracle.
  - a. He quickened the dead, meaning He made Abraham's and Sarah's body respond sexually.
10. God speaks how your situation will end up.
  - a. It's called "His judgment."
11. All of this is God's part to play.
  - a. He has a desired end result for whatever it is you're going through.
  - b. He covers any problems that would stop you from getting that end result with a promise.
  - c. If we blow it, no matter how bad or how long, He will intervene with a miracle if necessary.
12. Now comes our part.

**Romans 4:18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

13. Now let's break it down.

**Who against hope** - here we see that Abraham has no hope at all, none.

14. It is an utterly impossible situation for God's promise to manifest.
  - a. Too many years have gone by.
  - b. Too much has happened.
  - c. They are now physically too old to have a child by promise.
15. This is where we will start. Let's say you are in a hopeless situation where there seems to be no way out. You have no hope whatsoever.

**#3. MAKE A CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_**

16. It is at this stage where many people forfeit the promises of God and end up disillusioned and disappointed.
17. Two choices are in front of your hapless situation. First...

**Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.**

18. You can *defer hope*. Meaning you decide to put off, postpone or cancel any chance of seeing God come through for you.

- a. Because you cannot see a way, that is your final answer and you judge your case as being impossible to remedy.
  - b. So you quit, give in and give up...hope deferred, no way.
19. Or, the second choice you can make is **Who against hope believed in hope**.
  - a. You choose to give God a fighting chance on your behalf.
  - b. You know you can't come up with a solution, it's utterly hopeless but you are going to choose to believe that God will make a way where there is no way.
20. Hope starts here. You refused to give up. You don't know how, you don't see how, there's no logical, possible way, you're probably going crazy, everyone will laugh at you but you're choosing to give God a chance even when everything inside you screams doom, gloom and destruction.

**#4. REHEARSE \_\_\_\_\_**

21. Hope needs a starting point. Rehearse the promise of God.

**Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations...**

- 22. Even though it still feels, looks, seems, is impossible, bring God's promise to the front of your brain.
- 23. Now the war starts. Your brain will present to you all the logistics, past experiences, reasons, excuses, facts of the matter and will even have you lean on your own understanding of the situation to build a case against hope.
  - a. The war is on.
  - b. There is a fight for control. Control what? Your mouth.

**#5. SPEAK GOD'S WORD EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE \_\_\_\_\_**

**Romans 4:18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken,**

- 24. God's Word is voice activated.
- 25. Doubt, fear and unbelief want you to speak how you feel, what it looks like to you, what you understand or not, what makes sense.
  - a. This is where satan adds pressure into making you think that you have to come up with a solution because God obviously abandoned you or you wouldn't be in this mess.

- b. He is trying to give you a counterfeit vision to follow, a hopeless one.
- 26. You are now riding in the hope stage. You are uncertain one day and feel good about it the next. Some nights you go right to sleep, other nights you stay up all night worrying yourself to death.
  - a. The enemy is trying to get you to defer your hope, to throw away God's promise by judging your case as closed, a no win situation.
- 27. At this stage, satan will try to convince you that God is not going to come through because all the faith messages you have heard clearly shows that you have zero faith.
  - a. So why bother?
  - b. But you choose to believe anyways, that's active hope.
  - c. You come to church even though you don't feel like it. You sing the songs even though they are stale in your mouth. You tithe when you would rather spend it at the mall.
  - d. You feel like you're just going through the motions...that's being active with your hope even though you don't see any changes or feel any different.
  - e. Going through the motions in a hopeless situation is planting a faith seed.

f. I didn't say "plant a seed by faith."

**Romans 4:18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

So shall thy seed be - what is this saying contextually according to this verse?

28. Your seed will face impossible odds and it will seem utterly hopeless in ever getting the harvest that you want out of it, but if you will speak what I promised, it shall come to pass.

a. So shall thy seed be.

#### #6. THE TRANSITION BEGINS, FAITH SPROUTS FROM HOPE \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

And being not weak in faith - do you see that we went from "who against hope believed in hope" to a portion of faith that now is strong enough to work with...not weak in faith.

#### #7. THE FAITH FIGHT BEGINS \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

**1 Timothy 6:12 (NLT)** Fight the good fight for what we believe. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses.

29. The faith fight directs its voice to the negativity, fear, doubt and unbelief that hope was wrestling with.

30. This transitional phase is usually intense because the biggest obstacle is your brain.

**Romans 8:7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

31. Your soul becomes hostile towards God because it does not want to be disciplined, told what to do or think.

32. This is where you bounce back and forth between hope and faith. Some days you seriously doubt it and other days you feel it just may happen.

33. Abraham teaches us the three things that satan will use to crush your faith and render you hopeless.

**Romans 4:19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

**#8. SETTING THE BATTLE LINES** \_\_\_\_\_

34. Notice what the enemy will bombard your brain with while hope is turning into faith.

#1. **He considered not his own body** - what do you have to offer to get out of this hopeless situation?

- a. You don't have the money.
- b. You don't have the know how.
- c. You don't have the ability.

#2. **Now dead** - your situation...nothing's changed and it's gotten worse.

- a. Time is running out.
- b. Now what?
- c. If God:
  - w a s r e a l l y a healer/deliverer/miracle worker.
  - really loved you like He said.

- really wants to meet your needs.

#3. **When he was about an hundred years old** - time is satan's greatest tool against believers.

- a. Hurry up, there's a deadline, a due date.
- b. See, God doesn't really care or else you wouldn't be going through all of this.

#4. **Neither yet** - the clincher...all about the forgotten details, oh, by the way.

- a. And what about this detail?
- b. And what about this reaction?
- c. And what are they gonna say / do?
- d. Even if you did, what about...

#5. **The deadness of Sarah's womb** - outside circumstances beyond your control.

**#9. DUE CONSIDERATIONS** \_\_\_\_\_

35. Now, how do you leave the hope stage and enter into the faith arena?

**Romans 4:19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not...

36. You stop taking things into consideration!

**2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

37. To *consider* something means that you form a mental image in your mind concerning the situation.
- You entertain thoughts, views, ideas and suggestions.
  - You look for something that makes sense, seems logical, practical or do-able.

#### **#10. ANOTHER ENEMY AND A NEW BATTLE**

38. At this stage, you can either develop your faith that has sprouted from hope or you can fall all the way back to being without hope.
- We do this when it seems too hard or it has been taking too long.
  - This hopelessness tries to recapture its ground by giving you things to think about, even if there was an ounce of hope.

**Romans 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;**

39. This new enemy is unbelief, and he will challenge you to see if you really believe what God said...**He staggered not at the promise of God.**

40. See, unbelief has to get through you, not to you.
- Unbelief works from the outside in, look, see, feel, think, assume, question.
41. So now faith has sprouted from hope. It's growing but it's not really convinced yet that what God had promised is true. We stagger, up and down, back and forth, in and out.

#### **#11. STAGGERING BETWEEN HOPE AND FAITH \_\_\_\_\_**

42. So now we do something that makes absolutely no sense, we start praising God. It makes our faith stronger.
43. Unbelief says...you're getting too carried away by praising God. Look how long you have been praying, seeking, confessing and nothing's changed. You're an idiot.
44. So unbelief tries the same old strategy.
- Look at your body, look at your resources, there's no way.
  - It's dead, it's all over, you know people are laughing at you.

- c. So much time has gone by, you probably missed God, it must have been a false prophecy, prophecies will fail you know.
- d. Neither yet, anyways, if, then why, how, when, where, who, forgotten details.
- e. Besides, she can't, he can't, God would have by now if...

**#12. HOPE BECOMES FAITH \_\_\_\_\_**

**Romans 4:21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

- 45. Hope like to think it's possible, faith knows it's possible.
- 46. When the conflict in your mind is silenced, and you are fully persuaded, your hope has turned to faith.
- 47. To be fully persuaded means that you are absolutely sure, without a shadow of a doubt.
  - a. It doesn't matter what it looks like, what they are saying about it.
  - b. Time and circumstances no longer influence what you believe.
- 48. That doesn't mean unbelief won't try to get a cheap shot in, but this time, you quickly recover and are bold in telling the devil that he lost this one...again.

**Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)** **What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.**

- 49. When your questions turn into declarations, when your thoughts turn worship, hope has turned into faith.

**Hebrews 11:1 (MSG)** **The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.**

- 50. Hope wants it to happen but it isn't really sure.
- 51. Faith knows it will happen despite the evidence against it.
- 52. When you go from uncertainty to being fully persuaded, you now believe and you cannot be convinced otherwise, hope has turned into faith.
- 53. Everybody starts with hope.
- 54. God's grace and mercy cover us while we struggle with hope.
- 55. You were born to conquer, start walking in victory!