

Dear Friend,

In all of my many years living on planet earth, I have never seen a time when people seemed so full of despair and hopelessness. By almost every avenue of media, we are bombarded with news that is designed on purpose to destroy the hope of God-loving people. This avalanche of bad news extends across the whole spectrum of life, from the pulpit to the decisions made at the highest government levels. It seems almost everything points in the direction of hopelessness.

Many years ago, in the early days when Sue and I were first stepping out into full-time ministry, the Lord gave us specific instructions about giving people hope. I wrote down what He instructed us. The following excerpts are from the Face-to-Face Series at our website. If you would like to read the entire document, you can find it online at <https://www.garycarpenter.org/FaceToFace/F980909b-TheGodOfHope.html> . The Lord said to us,

Concerning ministry, son, the first lifeline you are to throw to the people is the lifeline of hope. For the enemy rages against all mankind to destroy all hope that there is help for them from their God. You are never wrong to give the people hope. Without hope there is nothing for faith to give substance to.

The first order of ministry is to allow hope to be painted on the canvas of their heart, for without a vision the people perish. Tell them that all hope is in Christ Jesus the Lord. He has provided access for them into the bounty of their Father. Tell them it is all free by grace based on His finished work.

You must impart hope to their spirit before faith can ever be productive, says the Lord. This hope must come in such a measure that they can literally taste it and see it. It must be hope of a living kind and not a vague dream. I will teach you and I will instruct you how to help the people repaint hope on the canvas of their heart in such a manner that they will have a strong vision and a strong image that faith can give substance to.

Again I say unto you, the first lifeline for those who are drowning in the sea of affliction is to cast them the lifeline of hope. Without hope they will not move toward their God. Without hope they have nothing to hang on to. Hopelessness is the goal of their enemy who would destroy them spirit, soul and body. You are never wrong to give the people hope, says the Spirit of Grace.

Does not the Word say that He is the God of hope? Truly, He is! Introduce the people to the God of hope that they despair not, nor languish in hopelessness.

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

God our Father is the God of HOPE! He is not worried. He is not fearful. He is the answer to EVERYTHING through Christ Jesus our Lord. God has given us His Word and it is FULL of HOPE. Did you notice in Romans 15:13 the connection between “abounding in Hope” and the “power of the Holy Ghost?”

Abraham and Sarah had lost hope of ever having a child through their own bodies. Abraham was about one hundred years old, and Sarah was ninety years old. Sarah was “past the time of the way of women,” meaning ... she was not ovulating anymore. Abraham was also well stricken in age, to the point Sarai laughed at the thought of receiving pleasure again from her husband at their advanced age. The point is this: In the natural order of things ... there was no hope! But God had given them supernatural hope when He told them:

Gen 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

That is a vastly different image to see than an empty crib. They had been married for decades, but had never been able to produce a single child. And now their bodies were no longer able to produce children. I say again: in the natural there was no hope. But God spoke His word and gave them supernatural hope. It was their choice what to believe. The Bible tells us what their choice was:

Rom 4:18-21 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. (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 Sara's womb: (20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; (21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Against the hopelessness of the natural circumstances, Abraham chose to believe in the hope God had provided through His Word. The natural circumstances seemed impossible, but Abraham knew that God is able to perform what He says. When we allow God's Word to paint the images of godly hope in our minds, that is the first step toward accessing the power of the Holy Spirit. But hope alone does not produce results in the earth. Faith does!

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

First God gave Abraham and Sarah hope from His Word. But then God caused them to activate faith when He changed what they said about themselves. He changed their names from Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah. Abraham means, "I am the father of a multitude." Sarah means, "I am a princess." We normally think of a princess being young, and the one who will produce the heir.

God changed their names so they would always say about themselves what God had said through hope ... BEFORE the miracle in their bodies happened ... before their bodies were quickened ... BEFORE the child was conceived. Hope caused them to SEE what God had said. Faith caused them to SAY what God had said ... BEFORE the miracle happened in their bodies.

Our Father is still the God of Hope. His Word is full of hope as we see and believe His promises. Let us feed on God's "media" (the Bible) instead of the world's media (news and social media) until we become a people who SEES what God has said and a people who SAYS what God has spoken in His Word. As we do, we will become a people filled with all joy and peace in believing, and we will abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. Amen!

Your friend and co-laborer,

Gary