

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Hope From Another World

Dear Friend,

25 years ago I discovered the only true hope in this world, which isn't of this world. The hope I'm referring to comes from God's word. It was then that I surrendered my life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and anchored my hope in something beyond this natural world. (Hebrews 6:19)

***“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.”***

Hopelessness and despair have been dealt with once and for all by Jesus' death on the cross. That doesn't mean that the enemy doesn't attempt to lure us back down into despair and depression. But, now we have the supernatural force of hope as an anchor for our soul and are no longer defenseless against satan's attacks.

The hope spoken of here that becomes an anchor of our soul is not referring to hope that originates from this natural world. This hope that becomes an anchor for our soul originates outside this natural world and is produced when we read and meditate on God's word. This is hope from another world.

Paul spoke of the two different kinds of hope when writing about Abraham's miraculous encounter with God. (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.”***

Look at the phrase; “who against hope believed in hope”. The first “hope” mentioned here is referring to any natural hope that Abram and Sarai could produce children. All hope of them becoming parents was long gone. The second hope is supernatural hope that was produced inside Abraham after God gave His word that he would be the father of a multitude. This supernatural hope produced by God's word went directly against all natural hope of them producing

a child. If they were to be successful they were going to have to esteem God's word higher than the natural conditions of their own bodies.

This is where we frequently fall short. Instead of changing the image in us, by fixing our attention on God's promise to us, we often try and help God's plans with our own natural efforts. More times than not we end up messing everything up. When Abram tried to help God out (Genesis 16) the result was a son by the name of Ishmael, who fathered the Arab nation that has been a thorn in the side of Israel for generations. God doesn't want us to try and make His plan come to pass. He wants us to trust in Him and His process of cultivating hope, based on His word, until the image is so crystal clear in us that our faith has something to give substance to.

While we have the advantage of seeing the other side of their miracle, Abram and Sarai weren't so fortunate. All they had known for decades was childlessness, and the effects of old age had set in. Everywhere they turned they were surrounded by evidence of how impossible their circumstances were. But God changed their names (Genesis 17:5,15) so they would call themselves according to His word. However by now, both Abraham and Sarah had passed the age in which a man and woman could procreate. (Genesis 18:10-11)

***"I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life. (vs 11) Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women."***

In addition to that, Sarah had always been barren, even in her youth. (Genesis 11:30)

***"But Sarai was barren, she had no children."***

There was absolutely no possibility (no hope) in the natural of these two people producing children. Before they could ever produce this child they were going to have to overcome every negative image of childlessness within them in order to see the fulfillment of God's word in this natural world.

Faith must give substance to hope that has originated from God's word. There are no short cuts. (Hebrews 11:1)

***"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."***

God expects us to always, 100% of the time; operate by this principle of hope and faith. (Hebrews 11:6)

***“Without faith it is impossible to please Him...”***

**God never** wants us to look to anything or anyone in this natural world in which to invest our trust or anchor our hope. It is so easy to slip into the trap of looking to ourselves or to something in this natural world for help instead of taking time to allow God’s word to paint the image in us of His answer. No matter the problem, if we limit ourselves to natural hope that is rooted in a constantly changing world we will end up disappointed.

The problems we face today are not going to be solved by natural solutions. When we concentrate all our attention on natural solutions we are limiting ourselves to that which can be accomplished in the natural.

We are going to face impossible situations at some point in our life. But are they any more impossible than the predicament Abraham and Sarah were in? God’s plan for Abraham could absolutely never be fulfilled in his natural efforts. Try as he might, the only way he was going to father the nation of Israel was by faith in God’s word. For that to happen, Abram had to see himself as God saw him; Abraham – a father of many nations.

The enemy loves to ensnare believers in hopelessness and despair by getting them to focus on how impossible their situation is instead of on God’s word. The enemy will use any means necessary to paint the most impossible picture he can. It might be rumors that your company is closing, reports of incurable illnesses heading your way, or forecasts of killer storms that he will use to try and keep you from having hope. His goal is to present the most impossible picture of doom and gloom and despair. But, absolutely nothing the enemy can throw at us will ever change God or His word to us.

Sadly, most Christians allow these negative images to fill their hearts and minds, instead of God’s word, and they fall into pits of despair believing there is no way out. Born again children of God, who have the Spirit of God living on the inside of them, **have absolutely no excuse** for living in **hopelessness** and **despair**. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

***“Lest satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”***

We as believers are not to be ignorant in any way of satan's devices. Unfortunately, it seems that all too often we are woefully ignorant. We must recognize that the solutions to our problems are supernatural and begin with us turning our attention whole-heartedly to God and His word and refusing to be lured into satan's trap of looking for a natural solution to a supernatural problem.

The other day I received a message from a minister that I had been reading after and had been blessed by some of the things he had said in the past. In this message he went on and on about the upcoming election to the point that I stopped reading because I could see that he was looking totally to the natural for a solution. We must be on guard against being influenced by people, even those we consider spiritual leaders, who can be very convincing in their efforts to paint a hopeless picture of the future because they are looking to natural solutions.

God never said that we as Christians could **only** flourish so long as the right political leaders are in control. As far as God is concerned, our hope is to be completely in Him and His word and not in the natural circumstances or leaders in this world.

Look at what Paul wrote in his second letter to the church at Corinth.  
(2 Corinthians 4:18)

***“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”***

We are told by Paul not to look at what we can see and yet that is what most Christians spend the majority of their lives doing, instead of looking at what we can't see. Ask yourself this question; “How do you look at things that are **not seen**?” Paul is saying that we are not to look to the things of this natural “temporal” world for our answers. The word “temporal” means temporary or in other words it has no lasting eternal value. Anything we can see in this natural world is temporary. We are to look beyond this natural world for our answers, which we do by reading and meditating on God's word.

We are to look to and give ourselves wholly over to what will never change. God never changes nor does His word change. Unlike this natural, temporal world, God's word will be the same forever. Therefore, when our hope is rooted in God's unchanging word instead of the circumstances of this temporal world we will no longer rise or fall based on natural circumstances. Think about this statement by Paul. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

***“For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”***

Paul wasn't looking at his natural circumstances and saying; "Oh, woe is me, there is no hope". I am certain there is not one person reading this letter who has had anything close to the affliction and persecution Paul suffered, (2 Corinthians 11:23-28), and yet he called it "light affliction" because Paul had the supernatural force of hope working inside of him.

So how do we maintain the supernatural force of Godly hope? We maintain this kind of hope by fixing all our attention on "the things that are not seen" instead of the things that are seen. The "things that are not seen" speak of God and His eternal Kingdom. If we can look beyond the limitations of the natural world and envision our eternal home why can't we look beyond the limitations of the natural world right now and see God's provision for us through His word?

By focusing on God's word we set an anchor for our soul so that we won't be tossed around by life's circumstances. Yes, things in this natural world are going to happen. But, there is no reason to allow those natural circumstances to render us hopeless. Think about Abraham, if he had allowed himself to only see his natural circumstances, Isaac would never have been conceived. He had to look beyond the natural and set his hope on the supernatural.

How did Abraham see beyond this natural world? God gave Abraham His word to be the anchor for his soul to combat the thoughts of doubt and unbelief that most certainly filled his mind. (Hebrews 6:18)

***“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”***

The two "immutable" unchanging things are God, who cannot change, and His word, which cannot change. Abraham took God at His word and per God's instruction Abraham focused all his attention on the stars of the sky (Genesis 15:5) and the sand of the sea shore (Genesis 22:17) until the image of his seed filling the earth painted a picture on the canvas of his heart.

Unlike us today, Abraham had no Bible to help him paint this image so God had him call himself – a father of many nations and used the sand and the stars to help paint this image. We have the written word of God on which to fix our attention until the supernatural force of hope rises up in our heart and faith gives substance to that for which we hope.

In what are you going to invest your trust and anchor your hope? Are you going to invest your hope and confidence in temporal things that are here one minute and gone the next? Or, are you going to anchor your hope in the eternal word of God. If you will do this, you will create an image of success in your heart that will sustain you through whatever impossible circumstances come along. You don't have to be hopeless anymore. You don't have to live in depression. You will either spend your life looking at the things that are seen or you will look beyond the natural and set your sights on the things that are not seen. The choice is yours. I pray that you choose wisely.

(I taught two messages on hope in August. "The God Of Hope" and "Faith Begins With Hope". You can find them in the media/messages or media/LiveStream sections of our website.)

~ Jesus Loves You!

*Mark Jenkins*