

Set Your Sights on God (Hope & Faith)

The Early Believers Response: Sealed with His love

*42 Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. **Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer.** 43 A deep sense of holy awe swept over everyone, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. **44 All the believers were in fellowship as one body, and they shared with one another whatever they had.** 45 **Out of generosity they even sold their assets to distribute the proceeds to those who were in need among them.** 46 Daily they met together in the temple courts and in one another's homes to celebrate communion. They shared meals together with joyful hearts and tender humility. 47 They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. **And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were coming to life.***

Acts 2:42-47 (TPT)

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4 (NKJV)

Delight yourself in the Lord: Delights are hope filled beliefs in God. People who delight in God believe God has many avenues to fulfill his plans and promises for their life.

*12 **Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don't give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times.***

Romans 12:12 (TPT)

Am I a delighter? Does Hope overflow from within me despite the circumstances?

We all Declare This every week:

*24 **This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

Psalms 118:24 (NKJV)

How do we stay in a place of delighting? How do we stay full of Hope?

*12 **Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don't give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times.***

Romans 12:12 (TPT)

My hope doesn't come from answered prayers it comes from the answerer of prayers!

My Faith Fuels My Hope & My Hope Fuels My Faith!

Faith Spoke & Hope Expressed:

*15 **I now give you one more chance. When you hear the ram's horn and the music of the flute, the lyre, the ten-stringed harp, the triangular harp, the drums, and all the other***

*instruments, you will bow down to the ground and worship the golden statue I have made. But if you refuse to worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a white-hot fiery furnace. So now, who is the god that can save you from my power?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar: "We have no need to offer you a defense in this matter. 17 If the God we serve truly exists, **then he will save us from death at your hand, O king.** So, if you throw us into the fiery furnace, our God is able to save us. 18 **But even if he does not save us,** you can be sure, O king, that we would not serve your gods or worship the golden statue you have erected."*

Daniel 3:15-18 (TPT)

Hope is:

- 1) Hope is the belief that the future will be better than your present and we have the power to make it so
- 2) Hope is the confident joyful expectation that something good is coming.
- 3) Hope is the overall optimistic attitude about the future based on the goodness of God and his promises.

Hold fast to your confession of Hope:

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)

23 So now wrap your heart tightly around the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises!

Hebrews 10:23 (TPT)

How important is Faith & Hope?: They have always been tied together!

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

Misplaced Hope leads to unfulfilled promises: Where have you placed your hope?

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12 (NKJV)

Do your giants seem bigger than your God?: The first report of God's promised land!

*30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "**Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.**" 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*

Numbers 13:30-33 (NKJV)

What do you have your eyes on? : Steve Backlund in his devotional infighting Joy in 40 days:

“Here are 7 things we are tempted to set our sights on instead of the Lord.”

1. **The problems we are experiencing:** when we magnify the problem we can talk ourselves right into unbelief.
2. **Our abilities and responsibilities:** We focus more on what we need to do than what Jesus has already done.
3. **What the Devil is doing:** Are you talking more about Satan’s attacks or God’s protection? Spiritual warfare is about turning on the light and exalting what Jesus has done!
4. **Our past:** Are you still paying the old man’s debts? Don’t you know you are a new creation?
5. **Our apparent disadvantages:** The victim mindset is rooted in the belief that we are at a disadvantage because of “Blame”. But a victorious mindset is one that says We are at an advantage because of Jesus!
6. **Our feelings:** We don’t deny our feelings but we can’t magnify them above what God has said and Jesus has done
7. **The faults of others:** We magnify what we see wrong in others and blame it for the lack of progress in our own life.

This is the sound of Hope:

*31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31 (NKJV)*

Set your sights on Jesus:

*1 Christ’s resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that’s where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! 2 Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. 3 Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ. 4 And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!
Colossians 3:1-4 (TPT)*

We get to ask the Holy Spirit for Help!

Do you want to be a more hope-filled person? Spend more time with God

Do you want to delight yourself in God? Believe Higher thoughts about God

Do you wish to let your life (Your mind, will, and emotions) magnify God? Be Moved by your Hope in God.

Do you desire to keep your focus on Jesus? Blind yourself to the World and Bind yourself to the Word.

God does these things by way of the Holy Spirit!

Activation:

- Where have you placed your Faith?
- How are you walking in Hope?
- What are you Magnifying?
- Are there areas where you’ve been in faith but lacked hope?
- What does "delighting in the Lord" practically look like in your life?