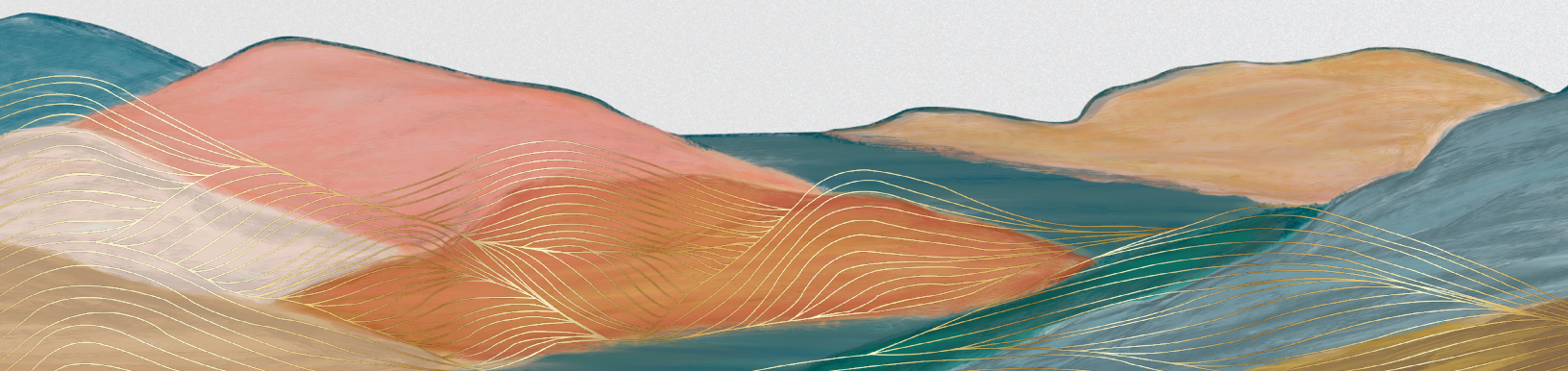


**H** *a thrill of*  
**HOPE**  
THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES

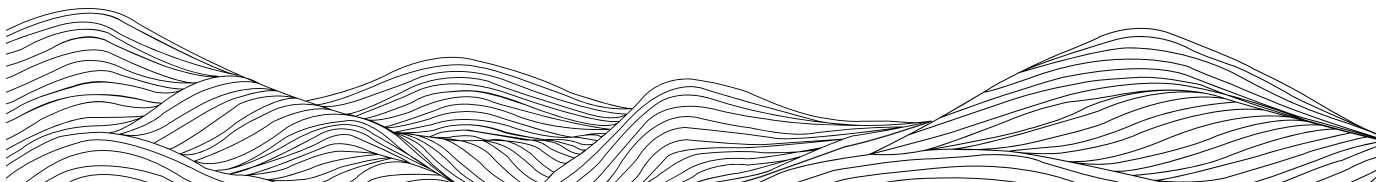
A 12-Day Devotional About the  
Powerful, Spiritual Force of HOPE





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# How To Use This Devotional

***“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”***  
**John 3:16 (NLT)**

This Christmas, join us on an inspiring, 12-day journey that will help you fully receive the gift of hope Jesus is to your life!

The enemy is after your hope on every side, so he can render your faith useless. Our Christmas gift to you, this 12-day devotional, will teach you the importance of true hope in the working of your faith and how to overcome the discouragement that so stealthily tries to steal it.

The theme of this devotional is inspired by the beloved Christmas song, published in 1857:

*“O Holy Night,”* which says:  
*“Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ  
was born.”*

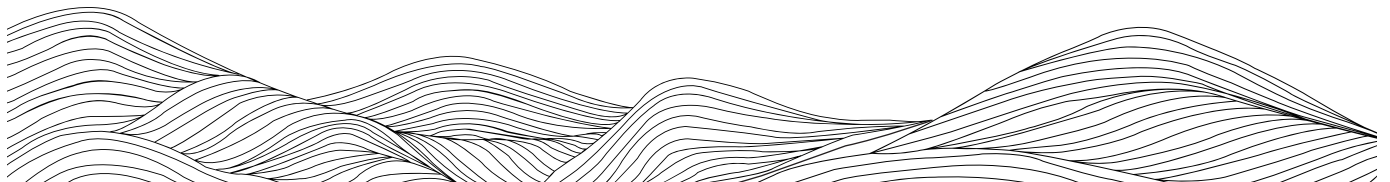
These lyrics so eloquently remind us how Jesus’ birth brings hope to a lost and dying world. In fact, there’s so much hope you have as a believer in Jesus that you can overcome anything you’re facing...including death, sickness, disease and lack. That’s why we celebrate Jesus as our wonderful Gift every year!

But the key to walking in victory is knowing how the spiritual forces of faith, hope and love work together, which this devotional teaches. Soon you’ll be abounding in Bible-based hope and seeing God’s covenant promises come to pass in your life like never before!

So, whether you have had a year filled with the enemy stealing and destroying, or if you are even facing his threats right now—this 12-day devotional is a weapon of spiritual warfare for victory in every battle and every situation.

As “faith specialists,” it is our charge from God to teach you how to use your faith in God’s WORD to walk any situation through to victory. We believe the priceless teaching in this devotional will help you do just that.

**It’s time to get your hopes up!**



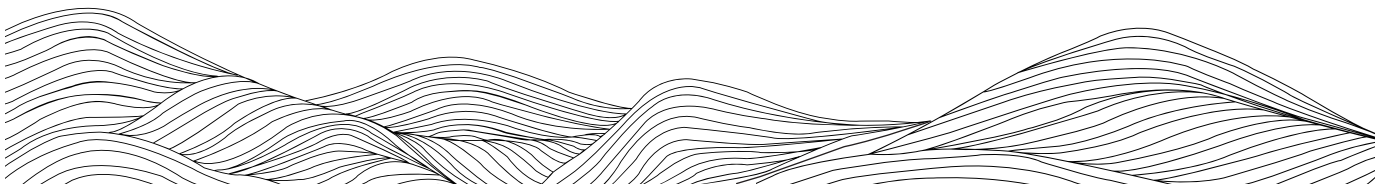


## How to get started:

1. **Choose a time frame** free of distractions to complete the devotional this Christmas. Mark it on your schedule.
2. **Invite others** to participate in the devotional, if desired. The devotional can be done on your own, with family, friends or any group of people.
3. **Prepare yourself:**
  - a. Get your Bible and a journal for making personal notes.
  - b. Consider listening to a praise and worship song to help you enter you into God's presence and prepare the atmosphere of faith. You could sing along with one of Brother Copeland's songs from his Christmas album! (Find streaming options [here.](#))
  - c. Start your devotions with a prayer for eyes to see and ears to hear the goodness and revelation of God in these pages (Psalm 27:13). Ask Him to reveal to you personally how to adjust the exercising of your faith to bring about His good and perfect will in your life right now. God is faithful!
4. **Read through the entire devotion each day.** From scripture to journaling, every part is meant to be done together to help The WORD take root and produce a harvest of victory in your life.
5. **When you finish** your 12-day devotional, let us know how it has impacted your life and your faith.

We invite you to **call us** (*in the U.S. call 817-852-6000 Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Saturday through Sunday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.*), [send us a testimony](#), or **write to us** at *Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192*. We would love to hear from you!

## Now, let's get started....





# Day 1

## Get Your Hopes Up

by Kenneth Copeland

All my life I've heard people say, "*Now, don't get your hopes up.*"

Until I began to live a life of faith, I didn't think much about it. But after I began to live by faith, and Hebrews 11:1 became real to me, I thought, Why not get my hopes up? If I don't have hope, I won't have any faith. Since faith is the substance of things hoped for, without it, I won't have anything for faith to be the substance of!

The Bible says you have God's hope. You've got His faith, and His love. You received these powerful spiritual elements when you received Jesus as your Savior and LORD.

People say, "*Don't get your hopes up.*"

I say, "*Get them up as high as you can get them. You can never have too much hope or too much faith.*"

The ability of your adversary, the devil, has been paralyzed, and he is now subject to the matchless Name of Jesus, the mighty power of Jesus' blood shed for us, and the explosive, creative power of The WORD of the living God spoken in faith from the lips of Christians who have been reborn into the image and likeness of Christ Jesus, the Anointed One.

All your enemy can do is lie you out of what belongs to you and tell you you're not going to get it. He is the one who comes to knock down your hope so he can steal your faith. Jesus said in John 10:10 *KJV*, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they

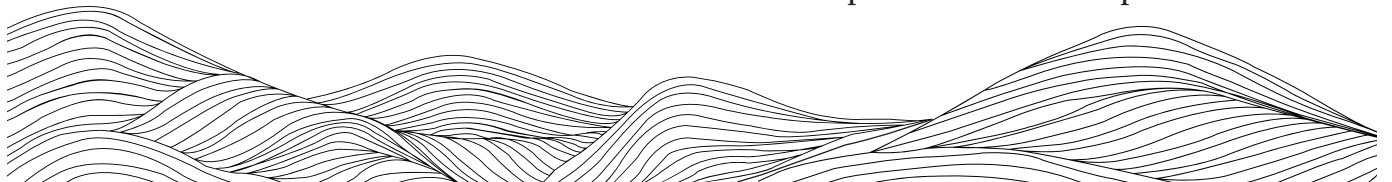
might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

The sooner you recognize that satan is the thief, the sooner you'll begin mounting your offensive with the power of God's eternal, life-changing WORD and building your strong hope on what He says.

For most people, hope just means wishful thinking. You often hear, "*I sure do hope so!*" meaning something more like, "*I sure do wish that would happen.*" In God's economy, wishful thinking will get you absolutely nothing, which is why the devil tries to steal hope from the believer.

Gospel hope is inseparable from faith and love—they're actually dependent on one another to function. Therefore, when the spiritual forces of faith, hope and love are working together on your behalf, nothing can stop you from receiving your healing, having your needs met, and enjoying everything else God has promised you in His WORD. The spiritual forces of faith, hope and love will bring the victory you need for anything you're facing.

**Let's dig in and find out what this powerful force of hope can do for you.** In the process, I believe you'll find the key to living a better life. And by the time you finish studying about hope, you'll never again be fearful of getting your hopes up, or withdrawing your faith from what God has for you. You'll never be concerned about being disappointed or failing because you'll learn how to use the powerful force of hope.





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## Points of Hope:

- » The blood of Jesus and The WORD of God are the keys to you living a successful, hope-filled life.
- » The devil is a very real enemy who wants to convince you that hope is the same as wishful thinking instead of what it truly is—a spiritual force.
- » Get your hopes UP! Hope is a vital component to your faith walk.

## Prayer:

*Father, teach me in Your WORD about the spiritual forces of faith, hope and love and how they impact my life. Open the eyes of my spiritual understanding to see, my ears to hear and my heart to understand what the Holy Spirit is saying to me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Think about your definition of hope—what it is, its purpose and how to build it up. As you learn more, compare your notes to the definition we discover in The WORD and make adjustments as needed to align with God. What do you need to get your hopes up about?

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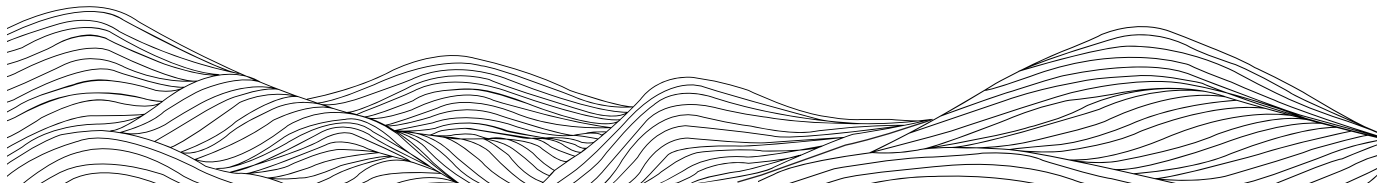
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# Day 2

## The Three Most Powerful Forces In the Universe

***“In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without***

***God and without hope.”***

**Ephesians 2:12 (NLT)**

If you’ve received Jesus as your Savior and LORD, then you now have—residing within you—three of the most powerful forces in the universe. These forces have the power to change any circumstance and revolutionize your life.

**What are these forces? They’re faith, hope and love.**

Let’s look at how they work together.

First, “God is Love” (1 John 4:8). He is the Great Creator of the universe and all that’s in it. He loves you, and He’s given you and all believers—the “measure of faith” (Romans 12:3). That faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). So, no love, no faith. And since faith is “the substance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1), you can see how these three—faith, hope and love—are interdependent and inseparable.

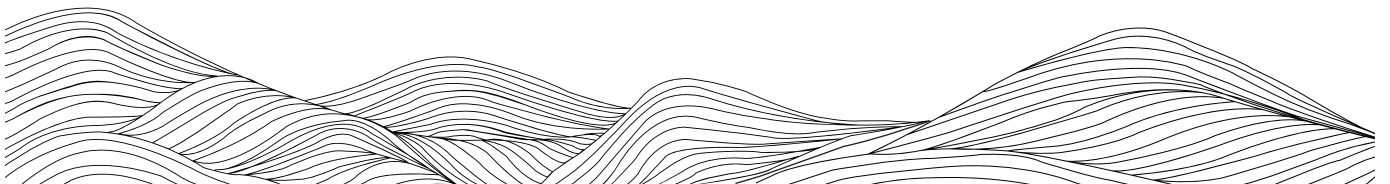
It all starts with believing the love God has for you (1 John 4:16). You have to receive it by faith. How can you grow in the knowledge of Him who loves you? God has given you His eternal WORD—the very power that created the universe. When

you believe and meditate on it, or think about it, and grow in the knowledge of the One who wrote it, His WORD will create images of success and victory inside you that we call hope. Once those images are formed, and you believe you receive them, faith goes to work to bring them from the spiritual realm into the natural realm.

So, that’s why getting your hopes up is so important. Those three eternal forces run the entire kingdom of God, and without hope, faith has nowhere to go—no goal for the substance of faith to enter into—to bring to pass the things you desire. Hope has the power to change things—it is the blueprint for your faith!

That is precisely why the enemy would love to convince you that you are hopeless. He would like to render your faith useless. Hope is the goal-setter of faith. Without it, faith has no substance to produce. The devil will tell you that because you don’t have enough education, money or opportunity, there is no hope for you. That’s a lie! Hopelessness comes from being without real, Bible hope and without God in the world.

However, if you’re a child of God, you can never be truly hopeless. First Peter 1:3 tells us, “BLESSED be the God and Faither 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” (NKJV).





Your hope may be small or weak. It may be hiding deep within you. But it's there, and if you want it to do anything for you, you must build it.

So, make the decision to build up the hope within you. Give it something to operate on. Just like a gas grill only heats up when you attach it to a fuel source, hope can only grow when it's connected to The WORD.

The problems staring you in the face today may be real, but you are still not hopeless. God's truth always supersedes physical circumstances. There's no problem that's any match for the eternal, overcoming power of God's WORD and the dynamic hope living inside you. As you ignite that hope, you'll build that blueprint for your faith and see just how much your heavenly Father has for you.

## Points of Hope:

- » When you accepted Jesus Christ as your LORD and Savior, you received within you the spiritual forces of faith, hope and love. These three work together to make it possible for you to receive everything God promised.
- » God is Love. He loves you. He gives the gift of hope and faith at the point of salvation.
- » Hope is ignited when we accept the fact that the promises of God are for us today. Faith gets stirred up as we meditate on God's WORD and expect Him to fulfill what He promised.
- » Hopelessness is a lie of the enemy to render your faith useless. As a child of God, you always have hope—it comes from His WORD. Your confidence in it may need to grow, but hope is there. It just needs to be strengthened with The WORD of God.

## Prayer:

*Father, I trust in You and thank You for giving me the forces of faith, hope and love in my inner man. Thank You that You are leading and guiding me in Your WORD. I declare by faith that I am growing in my understanding of these forces in my human spirit and how to walk in them every day. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Have you faced hopelessness? How does it change things to know you are never without hope? What does it mean to you to have the forces of faith, hope and love given to you? How will you use your hope?

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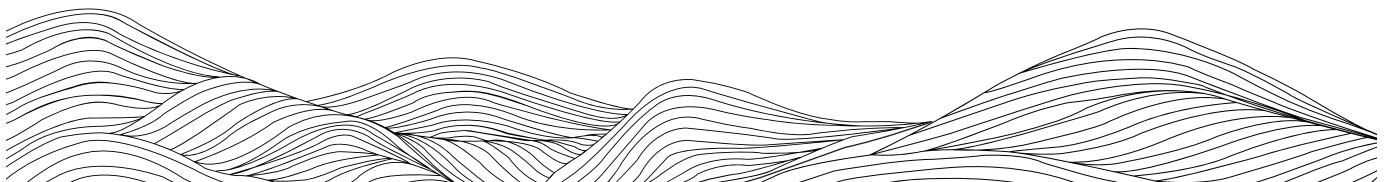
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# Day 3

## It Matters Which Hope You Choose

***“For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.”***  
**Philippians 1:20 (NLT)**

Worldly hope says, “I sure do hope I’ll get a raise at work,” when what people mean is, “I want a raise. I don’t think I’ll get it, but it would be nice if I were to get one.”

The kind of hope described in The WORD of God—what I like to call real, *Bible hope*—is much stronger than that. **It’s not based on wishing or wanting. It’s instead based on our eternal Covenant with Almighty God, sealed in the blood of Jesus.** As we learned yesterday, that kind of hope is the blueprint of what faith is going to bring to pass in our lives.

One way to know if you’re operating in real, Bible hope or worldly hope is to listen to yourself talk. Worldly hope says, “I hope my bills get paid,” while real hope is an earnest, intense expectation based on The WORD. It says, “Glory to God, my bills are paid, now, because God said in Philippians 4:19, “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (KJV).

Worldly hope is always in the future. It’s always tomorrow—or someday. It says, “Well, I know God will heal me if He wants to,” or “Someday

we’ll have enough to pay all the bills on time.”

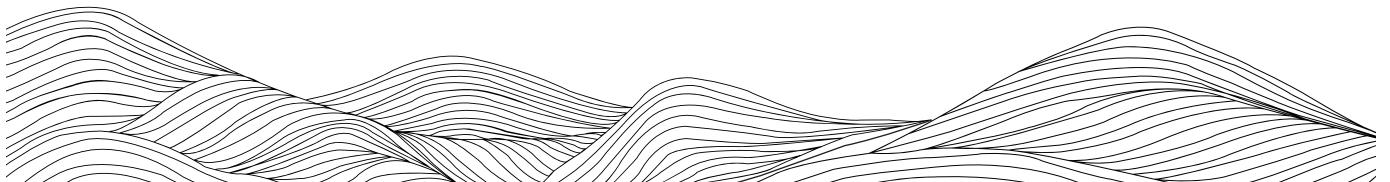
Real hope is based on what God has already said. It is always right now. Hebrews 11:1 (KJV) says, “Now, faith is the substance of things *hoped for*...” Notice that faith is based on hope. It’s an expectation of what’s sure to come. Think of a child eagerly waiting to be picked up by a favorite grandparent. There’s no doubt the meeting will happen. It’s a question of when, not if. So, if faith is now or immediate, then when is the hope? Hope is now, too.

Hope says, “Thank You LORD. I see in Your WORD that Your promise is mine, and I not only hope for it, I see it as mine. It is mine. I believe I receive it, in the Name of Jesus!”

We see this kind of expectation in the life of Abraham. Before Abraham knew anything about real hope, he and his family worshipped the moon. But God approached Abraham and established a relationship with him. God cut a Blood covenant with him, and in the strength of that covenant, Abraham became a mighty man of faith.

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations when Abraham was 100 years old and childless. His wife was about 90 years old and had been barren all her life.

To receive God’s promise, Abraham had to learn how to tap into hope based on what God had promised. That’s why Romans 4:18 (KJV) tells us that he, “against hope believed in hope.” All he





could see in the natural realm was negative. But he combated those kinds of thoughts based on what God had promised him. His Bible hope was pitted against worldly hope, but that Bible hope sprang up, and an inner image of fatherhood replaced what he saw. Abraham's life is a powerful example of what the power of hope can do in every situation in our lives. God had promised. Nothing else mattered—no other possible outcome, no doubt. Abraham held onto that promise and refused to consider anything else.

You can do the same thing. God's WORD belongs to you the same as it did Abraham. Believe what God says, allow it to create an expectation of victory inside you, and don't be moved by anything else—no matter how the situation looks.

Second Corinthians 1:20 (KJV) says, "For all the promises of God in him are yea [yes], and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." Just like Abraham, believe what God says, and receive your promise!

## Points of Hope:

- » Bible hope is an earnest, intense expectation of victory, confident in and based on what God has already said.
- » We can pit Bible hope against worldly hope to bring about victory despite the circumstances around us, just like Abraham did in his life.
- » Combining the spiritual forces of hope and faith with God's WORD results in receiving all that God promises you.

## Prayer:

*Father, You always keep Your WORD. I believe You. I trust that Your WORD is true and stands forever. Thank You that Your promises are always yes and amen!*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

What does God's WORD say about a situation in your life? Find the scripture that pertains to that situation. What does your hope image look like? Since hope is the blueprint of faith, is my hope based on what I see, or what God says? I base my faith on what God says about my victory!

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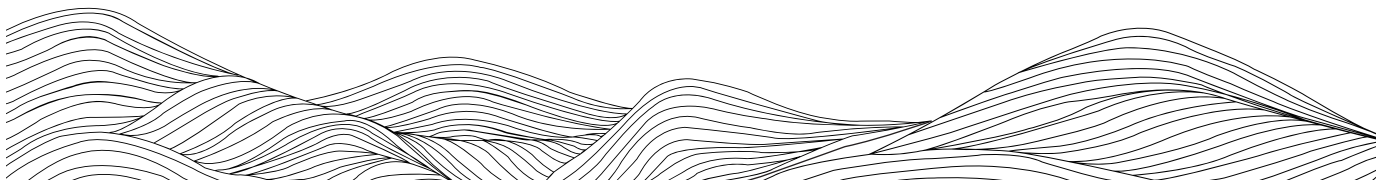
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# Day 4

## Painting an Inner Image

***“..the evidence of things we cannot see.”***  
**Hebrews 11:1(NLT)**

If the inner image you have of yourself and your life isn't based on The WORD of God, it needs to change. That can only happen by renewing your mind with what God says about you.

For instance, you might say, “I'm stuck. I can't get anything done. I'm destined to be a failure.”

Change what you say about yourself! Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit” (NKJV). It's time to stop talking like that. Instead of dwelling on your past failures, consider what God says about you. You are so important to Him that He sent His Son to die for you. That is more real and true than anything anyone has ever said about you! Your own family may have repeatedly told you that you weren't worth anything. They were wrong! You are not worthless. You are not a mistake. You are not the sum of your past mistakes. In fact, God says just the opposite.

Psalms 139:14 (KJV) says you were “fearfully and wonderfully made.” And Luke 12:7 (AMPC) says, “But [even] the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” God knows how many hairs you have on your head!

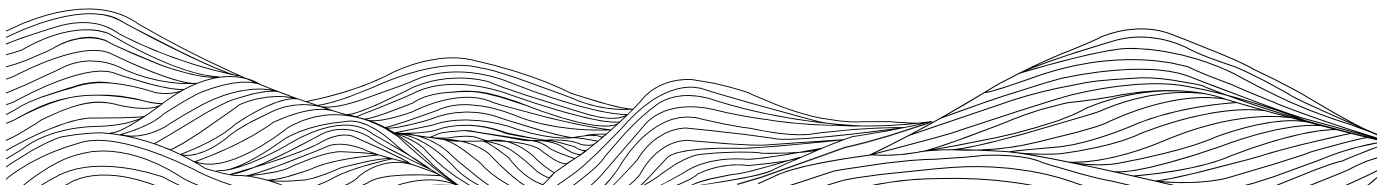
Think about those verses and how precious you are to God. Meditate on them. When thoughts come to your mind that you're worthless or a disappointment, say things like, “God loves me, and I'm just like Him. I'm successful just like

Him. I have the mind of Christ!” Each of those statements takes the focus off you and puts it on who you were created to be. Say them aloud right now!

If you need help knowing how to change the way you think about yourself, begin praying Ephesians 1:16-23, 3:14-21 and Colossians 1:9-14 over yourself daily. These are powerful, Holy Ghost prayers that the Apostle Paul prayed over his partners. But don't simply pray them and move on. Study them. Meditate, or think about, them. Begin seeing yourself in them. As you do, God's WORD will help you change your inner image and silence that negative self-talk.

We've already read Hebrews 11:1 in relationship to faith: “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see”(NLT). The unseen things mentioned here are things seen with the spiritual eyes of hope. Bible hope always “sees” it before the natural eye can. So even though you may not yet see the manifestation of these scriptures in the natural realm, continue to speak The WORD aloud and thank God for bringing them to pass.

How you perceive things will change as you meditate on God's WORD. Take, for example, two boys whose mother told them to go check the fuel gauge in the car to see if there was enough gas to go to Grandma's house. Both boys went out and looked at the same fuel gauge. One came back in the house disappointed and said, “Too bad, we can't go. It's half empty.” The other boy





came in shouting and said, “Get your hat, Mama, and let’s go. It’s half full!” Both boys looked at the same gauge, but their preconceived ideas and the stored information in their minds determined what they saw.

That’s the reason you can’t be moved by what you see. Your perceptions and past experiences (and even past failures) help shape the way your mind perceives and processes things. It doesn’t always present an accurate picture.

Your hope, your inner image, should always be set on God’s WORD—not on someone’s experience or opinion, even your own! Decide, once and for all, that God and His WORD—all of it—can be trusted without exception. Then anchor your hope in that WORD.

While you’re believing for any of God’s promises, you must be anchored to stay steady. Otherwise, you will be swayed by everything you see and every wind of change (Ephesians 4:14)—and you’ll have failure all around you. Instead, get into a place of faith produced by the unchanging WORD of God and stay there, anchored by hope.

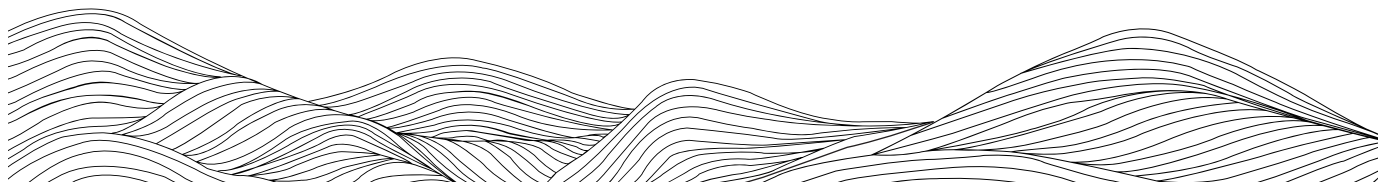
### **How do you anchor your hope?**

You must go to The WORD of God and find the verses that cover your situation. These are the hope seeds that will anchor your soul. “Stand” on them by believing, speaking and acting like they are true, regardless of what your five physical senses are telling you. As you meditate, or think about, pray and rejoice over the inner image they paint in your spirit, your hope and faith will grow and begin to transcend the “hope-less” picture around you. Faith comes from your spirit. As you keep God’s promises that cover your situation before your eyes and see yourself with the answer, your faith will rise up and take hold of that answer, and it won’t be long before things turn around.

If you have depended on your natural eye to make decisions and get ahead in life, start changing that today. Begin looking into God’s WORD and seeing yourself through the eye of faith. Then anchor yourself in hope in The WORD and expect the victory you know you have!

## **Points of Hope:**

- » You are not a failure or a disappointment. If you struggle with negative self-talk, it’s time to renew your mind with God’s WORD so you can get His perspective about who you are.
- » Your mind will tell you what is true and right based on your perceptions and past experiences, but those beliefs aren’t always right. They are not always the truth according to God’s standards. See yourself through the eye of hope based on God’s WORD, not the natural eye.
- » God’s WORD is the measure of what is true and right. As you study His WORD, your perceptions will begin to line up with The WORD.
- » **To anchor your hope:**
  1. You must go to The WORD of God and find the promises that cover your situation.
  2. “Stand” on them by believing, speaking and acting like they are true, regardless of what your five physical senses are telling you.
  3. Meditate, or think about, pray and rejoice over the inner image they paint in your spirit.
  4. Your faith will take hold of the answer, and it won’t be long before things turn around.





## Prayer:

*Father, I know I have judged situations based on my perceptions and past experiences. I realize that those beliefs are not always correct. Thank You that Your WORD is renewing my mind. Your WORD is alive and working mightily in me. I declare by faith that The WORD I have sown into my heart is producing great victory in every situation of my life! In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Have you ever believed something, based on your perceptions or past experiences, which ended up being false? How does this affect your hope? Will you take the time to anchor your hope in God's WORD, and never let go or give up, until you receive the victory?

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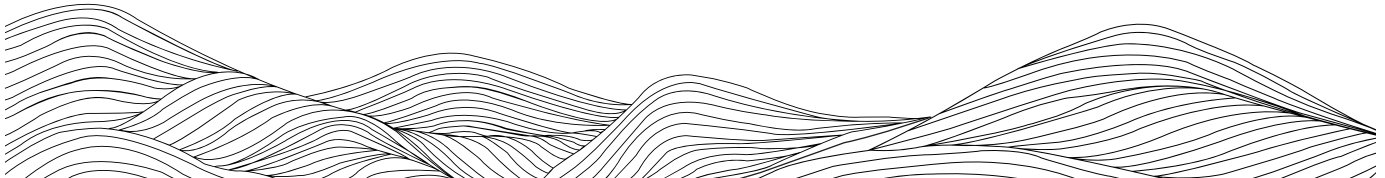
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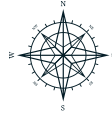
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# Day 5

## Imaginations

***“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in The LORD his God.”***

**Psalm 146:5 (KJV)**

You need to start dreaming—and dream big! God is a big God, and has big plans for your life (Jeremiah 29:11).

You’ll come to a place, if you stay in The WORD and bathe your mind in it every day, think about it all the time, and listen to resources preaching it to you, your hope will begin to rise. The WORD will paint pictures of hope inside you.

When you begin to dream dreams based on what you see in God’s WORD and see yourself with the answer, there is nothing you won’t be able to accomplish through Jesus. Philippians 4:13 (KJV) says, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Understand that Christ is not Jesus’ last name. It means “the Anointed One.” So think of it this way: **“I can do all things through Jesus, the Anointed One and His Anointing, which strengthens me.”** As you begin to meditate on The WORD of God, you’ll begin to dream beyond anything you’ve ever dreamed before. God will give you dreams that only He can fulfill, that only the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you can bring to pass.

Psalm 37:4 says, “Delight thyself also in The LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” When you seek Him, the Holy Spirit will place inside you the desire for all the wonderful things He wants to come to pass in your life.

Philippians 2:13 says, “For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him” (NLT).

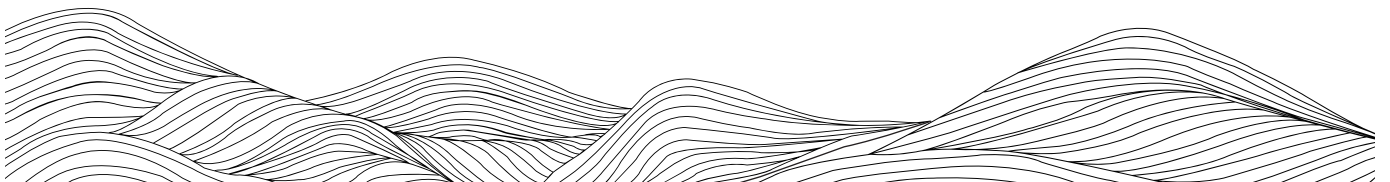
### **What pleases Him?**

Your prosperity and victory, and the fulfillment of His call on your life has been there from the foundation of the world. You and God, working together to fulfill Kingdom business.

When you live this way, you are abounding in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you’ve already learned, God is Love (1 John 4:8), and His plans for your life are always for your BLESSING and far greater and more wonderful than you could ever hope or imagine. Let those dreams built on His everlasting WORD grow big inside you. You can never out-dream God or His marvelous plans for your life!

Maybe you’ve been given a bad report in some area—you need to start dreaming some dreams. Take The WORD of God concerning the situation and build some big dreams. Seem impossible? Find scriptures concerning what you’re dealing with, write them down and meditate on them.

Speak them over and over in faith about your situation. Then fully expect those dreams to come to pass and rejoice when they do. God’s living WORD has the power within itself to bring itself to pass. As you speak it out, the angels of The LORD listen for the voice of His WORD and go to work to bring it to pass (Psalm 103:20). Our part is to plant and cultivate His WORD in the rich soil of our hearts, so it comes out of our hearts, so it comes out of our mouths in faith.





Be aware that your enemy, satan, who will try to stop The WORD from coming to pass in your life. While he can't stop The WORD from accomplishing the mission God ordained for it to accomplish, he can distract you and steal it from you if you allow it. Understand, it's The WORD he's after, not you (Mark 4:15)!

He uses five strategies to try to do this—persecution, affliction, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts of other things (Mark 4:14-20).

He wants to get your mind off The WORD and onto natural things. And there's only one way to overcome his methods: Follow the advice the Apostle Paul gives in 2 Corinthians 5:7 (*KJV*)—"Walk by faith, not by sight." Even when your body says you're sick, you can use your faith to believe you receive your healing. How? By focusing your spiritual eyes on The WORD, which says, "By whose [Jesus'] stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24 (*KJV*); also read Isaiah 53). As you meditate on what it says and spend time quietly listening to the Spirit of God, the revelation of what it means to your life and situation will begin to explode on the inside, completely changing your thinking as your mind is renewed to The WORD. Your faith will begin to rise up and take your healing.

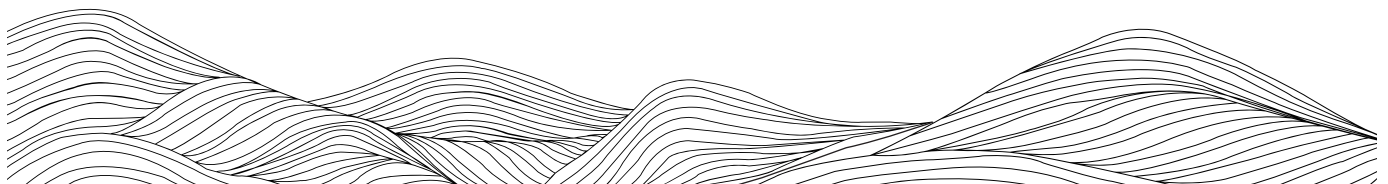
Then, when the devil attacks you in the middle of the night, and you wake up with a pain or worried about your children or finances, deal with it right then out of the abundance of The WORD you've been putting in your heart. Say: "No, devil. You're a liar, and I refuse to think on those thoughts. You're not getting my attention. Jesus is my Healer. Jesus and God's WORD have already delivered me. I'm a believer, and I believe God's WORD. I'm not a doubter, and I do not doubt. I believe I receive my healing. Glory to God!"

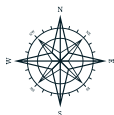
That's how you follow the Apostle Paul's example and "[cast] down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and [bring] into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5, *KJV*). It's a powerful practice that will keep your mind on The WORD and hold your ground against the enemy's plots.

God's WORD is always a solid foundation. Building your dreams—and keeping your mind—on His promises will produce eternal results beginning right now. So, take some quality time with God. Let the God-given image inside you come alive and thrive!

## Points of Hope:

- » God created man to dream. But He intended for us to dream dreams from His WORD.
- » When you begin to dream dreams based on what you see in God's WORD, there is nothing you won't be able to accomplish through Jesus.
- » Cast down any thoughts or imaginations that go against the promises of God. Resist the devil's distractions and deceptions by standing on God's WORD.
- » If you don't yet have a dream from God, or if your God-given dream has grown dim, then set time aside to get alone with God's WORD. Let that time of solitude allow you to dream new dreams or to remind you of past dreams.





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## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for the dreams You've already given me from Your WORD. I know these Holy Ghost, WORD of God-inspired dreams will come to pass because Your WORD is my sure foundation and my victory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

What dreams for your life have you had in the past? How do they line up with God's WORD? Have you ever taken time away with The LORD and His WORD? How did He speak to you during that time?

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# Day 6

## Trusting God

***“Let us review the situation together, and you can present your case to prove your innocence.”***

**Isaiah 43:26 (NLT)**

Isaiah 43:25-26 says, “I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again. Let us review the situation together, and you can present your case to prove your innocence” (NLT). And, 1 John 1:9 (KJV) says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When you confess your sin, the blood of Jesus blots it out—as if it never existed. So when you confess your sin, don’t keep bringing it up to Him again and again. Colossians 2:13-14 says, “You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross” (NLT).

Your sins were blotted completely out, not just covered over. God never remembers them again. He will never bring them up.

You have to trust Him. First John 3:20-22 says: “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (KJV). From these verses, you can see the danger of condemnation. It robs you of your confidence

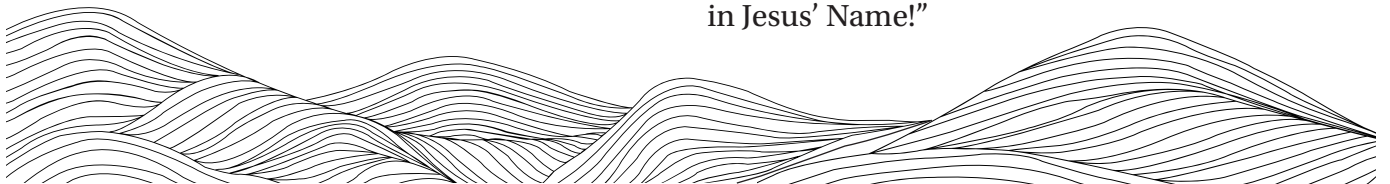
toward God and keeps you from receiving from Him. Romans 8:1 tells us that there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. Are you in Christ Jesus? If you’re born again, you are. Don’t let the devil steal your inner image of victory!

When you first learn to go boldly to the throne of grace for your need, remember His great love for you. First John 4:16 says, “We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him” (KJV).

Believe the love God has for you. Keep in mind, He did it all for you. He died for you. You are the reason Jesus went to the cross. God raised Him from the dead, appointed Him as Head of the Church and anointed Him as heavenly High Priest—for you! He didn’t do anything for Himself. Everything He has is given to you through Him.

Hebrews 12:2 (KJV) says, “Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” When Jesus was on the cross, He looked ahead and saw the joy of you as a born-again, Covenant child of God. When He was on that Cross, He had you on His mind. Believe the love He has for you.

Never let this knowledge slip away. Keep it in the forefront of your thinking: “My Father loves loved by God. Jesus loves me as Himself, and His love is working in me now. I believe I receive the promise He gave me in His WORD. I have what I need, and I thank Him for all He has given to me, in Jesus’ Name!”





That kind of confidence produces joy and thanksgiving because you know you will receive what you're believing for. You don't have to worry about it. God's WORD promises it, and His WORD is His blood-sworn oath. It will never fail. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35, *KJV*). You can stake your life on His eternal WORD. We've seen the importance of gospel hope. Don't move away from that.

That takes a quality decision and renewing your mind with The WORD. So much of our thinking has been distorted by wrong information, whether it came from our upbringing, religion or a lack of understanding where The WORD of God is concerned. But let's read what The WORD says about itself. John 1:1-4 (*KJV*) says:

In the beginning was The WORD, and The WORD was with God, and The WORD was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

The WORD is God. Jesus is The WORD made flesh (John 1:14). He is the Most High God. He is the Most High Love. His WORD is the Most High WORD from heaven. You can trust Him on every level because He created all things, and by Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:16-17).

Meditating on God's WORD and putting it into your spirit is not simply positive thinking. It's using the creative force of the universe to build an inner, God-given image of your success. It's the same WORD that built this earth, the universe and all that's in it. When God said, "Light be!" the explosive power of His words slung this universe into existence at the speed of light.

While man-made positive thinking will

ultimately fail, God's WORD never does. His thoughts and words are eternal, filled with the mighty power of His zoe life. Matthew 5:18 says, "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law [WORD] will disappear until its purpose is achieved" (*NLT*).

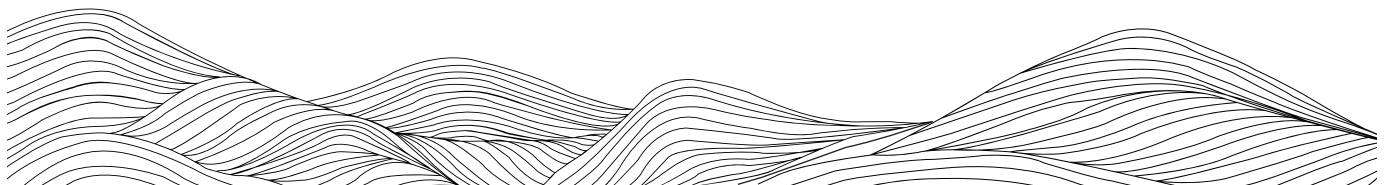
God's WORD will heal your body, calm your mind, rescue you from danger, get you out of financial problems, restore your family and provide anything else you need.

Dream it. Immerse yourself in it. Let it change and empower you. Just as it painted and framed the universe from the power and image inside God, let it paint and frame your life and all the good things He has for you (Hebrews 11:3).

This is what Peter was talking about when he said, "add to your faith, virtue" (2 Peter 1:5, *KJV*). In the Greek, the word *virtue* means "valor, moral energy, moral excellence." See yourself living and walking by faith. Meditate on these things, thinking about them and seeing yourself with your needs met, and BLESSING other people. See yourself joyfully walking in this BLESSED way of life.

Be so focused on being like Jesus, laying hands on the sick, ministering to other people, paying their bills instead of just paying your own, helping your church and BLESSING others, that when pain comes into your body, for example, you just rebuke it and go on helping others. Take your focus off yourself and what you don't have, and see yourself being a giver and a BLESSER!

Don't wait. Start now. Build a new future by exercising the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:2) with words of faith, hope, love and joy. Let those words produce acts of faith, acts of love, acts of joy and a continual hope rising up, expecting God's favor and His very best in your life at all times!





## Points of Hope:

- » Trusting God and His WORD, and accepting His love and forgiveness will help you walk in victory all the days of your life!
- » When you confess your sin, the blood of Jesus blots it out—as if it never existed. God is not a God of condemnation (Romans 8:1). He loves you and wants to see you BLESSED in abundance.
- » The danger of condemnation is that it robs you of your confidence toward God and keeps you from receiving from Him (1 John 3:21-22).
- » Take your focus off yourself and what you don't have and see yourself being a giver and a BLESSER!

## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness, and I receive it today. I trust in You and in Your WORD. I know that You are a loving God and that Your WORD is truth. I confidently hope in You and expect that You turn around for my good all things that the devil had planned for me and my family because You are a good, good Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Do you trust God to BLESS you? Do you believe in the goodness of your Father in heaven? Have you confessed your sins, received forgiveness and believe that He blotted out those sins forever (Hebrews 8:12)? Who can you BLESS today with what God has given you—time, ability, finances or prayer, for example?

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# Day 7

## Taming the Tongue

***“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.”***

**Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)**

**Your words are continually working—either for or against you.** By learning to make your words work for you, you can use them to build up your hope and faith.

Proverbs 18:21 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (KJV). It’s so important for believers to not speak words of doubt and unbelief or words that tear down others.

Jesus taught us this principle in Luke 6:45 when He said: “A good man out of the good treasure [deposit] of his heart bringeth forth that which is good [good things come to pass]; and an evil man out of the evil treasure [deposit] of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil [evil things come to pass]: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh” (KJV). Everything in our hearts that we speak comes to pass, both good and bad.

Fill your heart with God’s WORD, let it build hope and faith, and then let it come out of your mouth in power to change your circumstances.

There’s a direct connection between your tongue and your spirit, and there’s a direct connection between your tongue and everything else. Everything that comes to pass in your life has come out of the abundance of what’s in your heart—your spirit—which is the clearinghouse

for what comes out of your mouth.

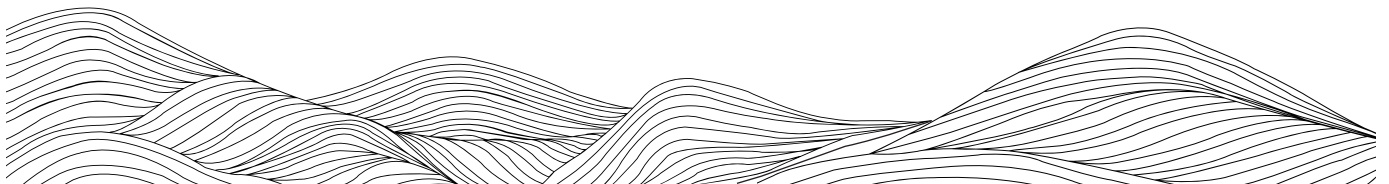
Take a look at James 3:1-3 in the *NLT*, and put these verses together:

*Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth.*

According to these verses, if you put God’s WORD in your mouth, it’s like handing God the reins. Why is this important? Because if you don’t do that and continue to speak negative words against yourself and your circumstances, speaking what you already see, nothing will change.

How does this match up with what Jesus taught about words? In Matthew 12:34-36, He said to the Pharisees: “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment” (KJV).

Jesus said you are justified by your words, or condemned by your words. And, you’ll stand in judgment for every idle, or inoperative, word that





you speak. And if we look at James 3:5, we see that our words can bring healing or start raging forest fires. It all begins with just a few words—the kindling to get the whole raging inferno started.

When you're building a fire, you start off with something small because it's easy to light with a match or lighter. And then, you put a little bigger piece of wood, like a stick, on top of it. And then you place a little bit bigger piece of wood on top of that, and so on, until eventually, you're ready to put the log on top of the whole thing.

That's what James is talking about in these verses. Your tongue is the kindling that starts the whole bonfire going.

Think about what he's saying. If you don't know these things, you won't have a clue about what has gotten you into the mess you might be in right now. But remember, Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (*KJV*).

"Well, Brother Copeland, I don't know whether I believe that or not."

Whether you believe it or not, it's working. Let's go on to James 3:7: "Every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind [or by natural man]" (*KJV*). For example, you don't have to be a Christian to tame or train a horse. It helps, but you don't have to be. Verse 8 (*KJV*) says, "But the tongue can no man tame."

The human tongue cannot be tamed by natural man because it's a spiritual instrument.

Carnal power can't do it.

Let's jump down to verse 14. And here's the key: "If ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth" (*KJV*). Don't say things that are not The WORD of God about yourself or anyone else. "This [kind of] wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual devilish. For where envying and

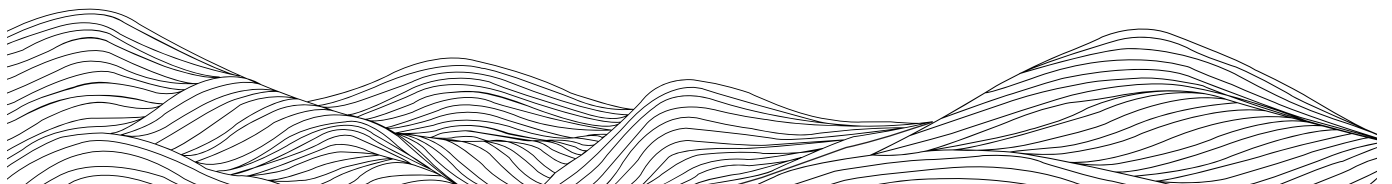
strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (verses 15-16, *KJV*).

Always keep in the forefront of your mind: Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). Strife is the opposite of that. And then, James 3:17 (*KJV*) talks about God's wisdom: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." In Luke 11:49, Jesus referred to The WORD as the wisdom of God. It's the wisdom that descends from above—pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, and without partiality. It's for everyone who will receive it.

Since The WORD is without hypocrisy, when I say I'm healed or that I'm prosperous because The WORD says I am, I'm not being a hypocrite—I'm speaking my faith in what my Father has already said about me. It takes diligence, commitment and quality time in The WORD, but you can do it. You can turn any situation around if you'll commit to doing these things without compromise. If you make some mistakes, confess them to God, and get right back up and go at it again. Thank God, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness!

To become more aware of what's actually coming out of your mouth, try listening, on purpose, to everything you say for one full day. It might surprise you to find out how much you speak against yourself, and gripe and complain and murmur about everything.

Instead, feed your spirit on The WORD of God and put it first place in your life. Allow the power of the Almighty that will turn every situation around to put a shout of praise on your lips. Be sure to guard your heart because when you're diligent to do this, it will guard your hope. Only say what God says about your circumstances—not what it looks





## Points of Hope:

- » God’s laws work in both the natural and spiritual realms...for everyone, whether believers or unbelievers.
- » Your words are continually working—either for or against you. By learning to make your words work for you, you can use them to come into agreement with God’s WORD. This results in building up your hope and faith.
- » Fill your heart with God’s WORD. Let it build hope and faith, and then let it come out of your mouth in power to change your circumstances.
- » Don’t speak words against what God’s WORD says about you, your situation or others. Endeavor to not complain or murmur; instead, fill your mouth with good things. If you mess up, confess it to God, receive His forgiveness, and move forward.

## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for Your WORD. Thank You for creating me to be a speaking spirit like You—with the ability to frame my world with the words of my mouth. I set myself to speak only words that align with what You have said. Forgive me for every careless word I’ve ever spoken, and I ask that Your Holy Spirit alert and correct me whenever I yield to strife, complaining, gossiping, or speaking hurtful words. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Do your words align with God’s WORD? What are some changes you can make today to the words you choose to speak? How can you grow in this area?

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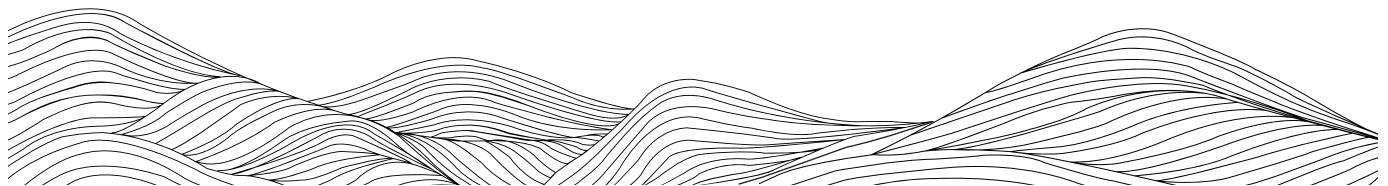
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# Day 8

## Break Through Barriers

***“Now our LORD Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”***

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (KJV)**

To fulfill the plans and purposes of God in your life, you must be fully persuaded and steadfast in your faith in God’s WORD. That’s the only way to walk in victory and lasting peace.

But peace and victory aren’t possible if you’re plagued by fear, guilt, inferiority or hate. Those are four of the enemy’s tools to steal, kill and destroy. They can keep many—even God’s people—bound, discouraged, angry, ineffective and distracted from God’s plan for their lives.

And when I say they’re favorite tools, I’m not exaggerating. The enemy has been using them since the Fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. When tolerated by born-again believers, these tools will keep faith, hope and love from operating.

But God didn’t leave us powerless. He gave us the weapons of our warfare, including the sword of the spirit which is The WORD of God, to defeat anything the enemy sends our way.

### **Defeat Fear**

First John 4:18-19 (KJV) says: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.” God’s love, inside you, is the most powerful force in all existence.

In Luke 8, Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, learned that his daughter had died. Jesus overheard this and told him, “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole” (verse 50, KJV).

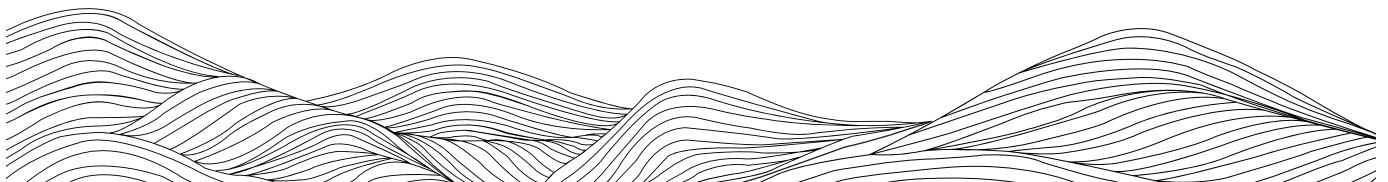
The first thing Jesus told Jairus was, “Stop the fear” (paraphrase). Why? Because fear tolerated is faith contaminated. Fear stops the power of God because it is the reciprocal of faith. And without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Is it because God gets mad at you if you don’t have enough faith?

**No, it’s because without faith there’s no connection to His power.** That’s why Jesus so often said, “As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee” (Matthew 8:13, KJV), and “Thy faith hath made thee whole” (Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:34, 10:52; Luke 8:48, 17:19, KJV).

In the same way, without fear, there’s no connection to the devil.

Always attack fear with power of The WORD of God that defeated it. Fear should not be part of your life. Any fear that comes your way is the devil trying to gain a foothold. Perfected love has already cast it all out. Don’t tolerate it at all.





## Defeat Guilt

We already discussed that God is love (1 John 4:8) and that when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). He keeps no record of our wrongs (Isaiah 43:25).

You may experience the feelings of guilt or shame, but learn to believe what God says rather than your feelings. If He said you're forgiven and cleansed, then you are. Confront the guilt and shame and declare: "Jesus took my guilt and shame on the cross of Calvary. I am forgiven. I'm cleansed from all unrighteousness. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, seated together with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). I am in right-standing with Him." That's who you are as a new creation in Christ Jesus. That's the real you.

Since God loves you unconditionally, for you to walk in hope and faith, you have to receive and walk in the confidence of His love that lives in you. As a born-again believer, God is in you, and He is Love. When you choose to walk in love and unconditionally forgive, as He does, then you can have confidence that when you sin and miss it, and then repent, your sin is simply gone—completely obliterated.

Unforgiveness will rob you of your victory.

But, when you forgive others and love like God loves, guilt won't get a hold on you. God is merciful toward you. He wants to BLESS you!

## Defeat Inferiority

Many people know John 3:16. They can quote it without even thinking about it, but most people don't really believe or receive the love God has for them.

**You must know God to know love.** The love with which God loved Jesus is inside you, just as

it was in Jesus (John 17:22-26). When you walk in the love of God and realize the magnitude of the love that dwells within you, confidence in His WORD becomes easy.

Religion says, "I have to work to please God." But God said in His WORD that He is already pleased with you. You are His son or daughter (2 Corinthians 6:18). You never have to earn His love—it's already yours.

In God's eyes, no one is inferior. Jesus didn't die for nothing. He died for you. He was raised from the dead for you. You are that someone for whom He went to the Cross. Believe and receive the love He has for you!

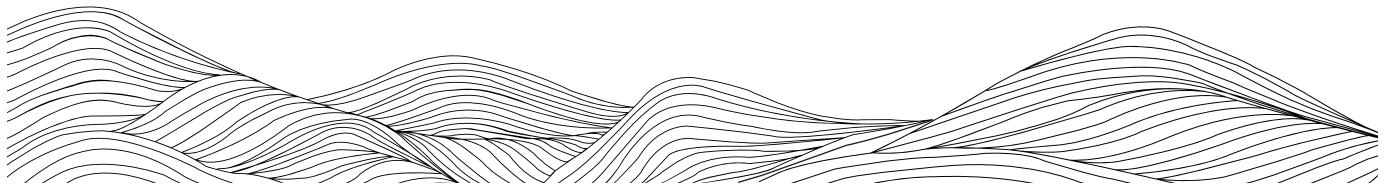
## Defeat Hate

*Prejudice* is the world's word for what the Bible calls the "spirit of division."

A divided house will fall (Matthew 12:25), and satan is the very spirit of division. If he can find a difference between people—whether it's through color, gender, culture, racial or doctrinal differences—he'll magnify those differences by stirring up hate and fear and start a fight.

**But love comes together and *benefits* from the differences.** For example, a man and a woman together are more powerful than only a man or only a woman—despite their differences. God made Adam, then separated the female characteristics out of him when He made woman. And then He put them back together in marriage, so man and woman could be one. When they come together and submit themselves to one another in the love of God, they don't have weaknesses. They become a solid front.

Cultures and races don't always see things the same way either. That's why it's so important for us to learn how each of us thinks, so we don't unknowingly insult one another and allow the







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devil to create strife and division. When we respect and take account of the perspectives of different cultures and races, we get a complete picture. That's the way God looks at it. When we come together in unity and love, we see the complete picture that is like God.

When we come to a place where we're more aware of the love of God, then we'll be more aware of anything that comes against that love, including hate, unforgiveness, bitterness, fear, doubt and death. Those things are part of the devil's realm, not God's (James 3:14-16).

Make the decision to kick fear, guilt, inferiority and hate out of your life with The WORD of God. They are works of the enemy meant to keep you in bondage and prevent you from fulfilling God's purpose in your life. By the blood of the Lamb, you've been redeemed. You are free—praise God—from every one of these tools of the enemy. Take your stand now and experience the difference it'll make!

## Points of Hope:

- » Fear, guilt, inferiority and hate are some of the enemy's favorite weapons to divide people and stir up strife. These works of the devil against you have to be dealt with through faith in God's mighty WORD—the only power that can overcome him.
- » Live fear-free. Without fear, there's no connection to the devil, and then the faith that pleases God is free to work in your life.
- » When you forgive others and receive God's forgiveness, guilt won't have a hold on you.
- » You must know God to know love. His unconditional, selfless and giving nature transcends human love.
- » Hate divides and conquers, but love comes together and benefits from the differences.

## Prayer:

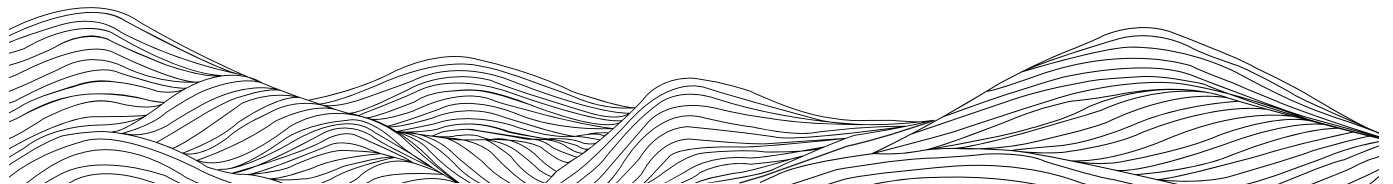
*Father, I thank You for Your love. I thank You that because of Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary, He has made me free from fear, guilt, inferiority and hate. I refuse to let those tools of the enemy into my life. Thank You that I am loosed and free from all of them, and Your great love is working mightily in me, flowing out of me to BLESS others! In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Have you ever struggled with fear, guilt, inferiority or hate? Is there anyone toward whom you have unforgiveness, bitterness or prejudice? Where can you apply God's WORD and His Love to root out the devil's devices against your faith?

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# Day 9

## Love Is Power

***“But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is Love.”***

**1 John 4:8 (NLT)**

Hope and faith work together. Neither work, though, without the God-kind of love. The Greek word for God’s Love is *agape*. It is His unconditional, selfless and giving nature. The Hebrew word is *hesed*. God’s *hesed-agape* transcends human love. It is His lovingkindness, His goodness. He does not have *hesed-agape* for you. He *is hesed-agape*, and He loves you with an everlasting, Covenant love that will never change. There is nothing you can ever do that will make Him love you any more or any less than He already does. His love never fails, and everything He does and says is born from His nature of love.

Love is the greatest spiritual force in the universe because Love created all matter. That’s why the other spiritual forces won’t work without it. It is the primary spiritual force and serves as the foundation for all the others. Without it, faith won’t work, and hope won’t work. Since God is Love (1 John 4:8), it’s right to say that without God, faith won’t work, and without God, hope won’t work. Love is critical to their operation (Galatians 5:6).

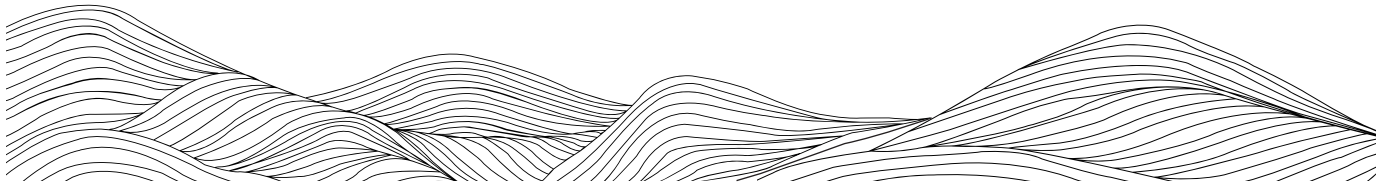
Let’s look at how these three work together. Hope is the blueprint, or the inner image. Faith is the substance. And love is the power, the motive or driving force, behind what you’re believing for. You could say it this way: Get your hope up. Fill it with faith, and back it with love. It will never fail!

This process begins with you reading, meditating and praying God’s WORD over yourself. Start with this prayer that the Apostle Paul prayed over the church at Ephesus:

*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19, KJV).*

First Corinthians 13:4-8 in the AMPC, gives us another great picture of the God kind of love. Confess this over yourself until these verses affect your life and govern your relationships:

*Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice*





*and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].*

Where this scripture says love does something, insert the word “I.” For example, when you confess these verses over yourself, personalize it. Say, “I endure long, and I am patient and kind; I never am envious, nor do I boil over with jealousy. I am not boastful or vainglorious, and I do not display myself haughtily,” etc.

If you’ll stay with it, you’ll see profound changes in your life. When you’re tempted to snap back at something someone says, for example, the words from your confession of faith will rise up from your spirit: “No! I endure long, and I am patient and kind...” You’ll catch yourself before you step out of love toward that person.

Knowing God’s love is vital to your hope. When the devil is beating you over the head, telling you that your prayers won’t be answered, rest in the reality of His unconditional, hesed-agape love for you. You’ll be able to stand up and shout: “You’re

a liar, devil! God loves me, and I love Him. I don’t care whether I feel like He does or not. God loves me!”

You can get right in the devil’s face with that, because you know the TRUTH. That will feed your hope, make it strong and affect the course of your life.

## Points of Hope:

- » The Greek word for God’s love is *agape*. It is His unconditional, selfless and giving nature.
- » God’s hesed-agape transcends human love. It is His lovingkindness, or His goodness.
- » Hope is the blueprint, Faith is the substance, Love is the power.

## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for Your hesed-agape toward me. I am so thankful that there is nothing I can ever do to make You love me any more or any less. Give me revelation of what is the breadth, the depth the length and height, and to know Your love that passes understanding so that I may be filled with all Your fullness (Ephesians 3:14-21). In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

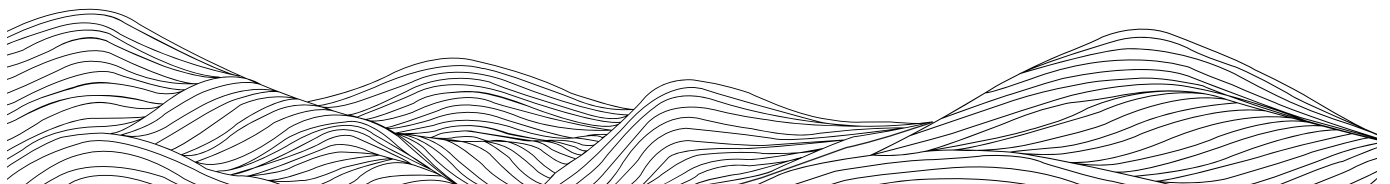
## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Do you struggle to comprehend God’s love? How does it affect you to know that God won’t ever love you any more or any less than He already does? What does it mean for God’s love to flow out from His people to others?

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# Day 10

## Defeating Giants

***“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.”***

**Romans 15:13 (KJV)**

Years ago, as I was in the middle of studying the life of David, The LORD told me to preach on David and Goliath. As I studied it out, I became so excited. Over the years, I’ve thought a lot about David. The Bible says he was a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). The more I’ve studied David, the more I’ve realized that he was a man after my own heart, too.

We can see a powerful picture of hope in David’s life, particularly in the account of his encounter with Goliath. As we examine this story, allow the Holy Spirit to make it come alive to you and speak to your spirit.

The full account of this story is in 1 Samuel 17. Rather than read it all at once in the *KJV*, we’ll study it in sections. We’ll begin with verses 1-4:

*Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephesdammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of*

*the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.*

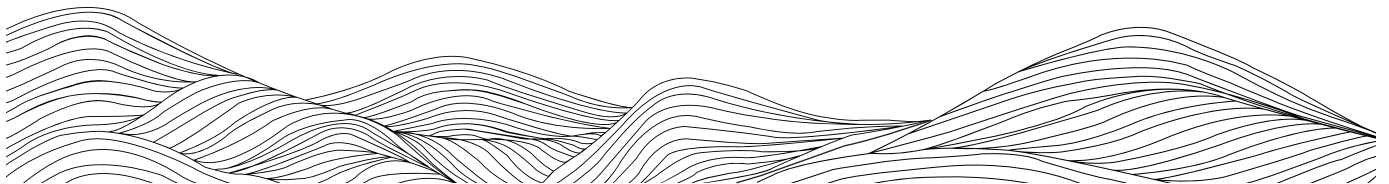
The army of Israel was on one side of the valley, and the Philistine army was on the opposite side. The armies of Israel were hiding because Goliath stepped out twice a day to shout, defy and intimidate them (verse 16).

Goliath was a giant of a man. When the Bible describes him as “six cubits and a span,” it equals about 9 feet, 6 inches. So he was somewhere between 9½ and 10 feet tall, and his equipment weighed about 500 pounds (verses 5-7). The circumference of his spear was bigger than an average-sized person could hold. He must have had massive strength.

What Goliath yelled at the armies of Israel in verse 8 is very important. He said, “Are ye not servants of Saul?” This reveals everyone’s mentality on the battlefield that day. The Bible says Saul was head and shoulders taller than any man in Israel. He wasn’t as big as Goliath, but he was tall—head and shoulders above anyone in Israel (1 Samuel 9:2).

At the time of this standoff between the Philistines and Israel, Saul was commander in chief of the army and king of the nation of Israel. He was a warrior and a king in more than name and title only. As the nation’s prophet, priest and king in those days, he had the anointing, the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God.

That’s why I believe Goliath wanted to fight





Saul personally, and not Israel's smaller warriors. He wanted to pull God's man down in front of everyone. Just look at what he said in verses 9-10:

*If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together.*

Verse 11 says when Saul and all Israel heard those taunts, they were dismayed and greatly afraid. They lost courage. They had no hope and no faith. Think about that. They were an army in the field with no hope of winning their battle. They had no inner image of victory. Goliath had challenged them every day for 40 days. He was so formidable-looking, they couldn't imagine winning against him and the Philistine army.

Every day Goliath defied the armies of Israel, he cursed them by his gods, and they all backed off and ran into their holes or trenches. This included David's three brothers who were also in military service.

David's father, Jesse, was eager to hear what was happening with his sons on the front lines, so he summoned David, his youngest son, to go take them food. Just as David got there, the armies of Israel were going out to fight and shout for the battle. David handed his supplies to the carriage keeper and ran into the army to find his brothers (verses 20-22). He didn't say, "I'd better stay back here because I'm just a little guy."

David found his brothers, saluted them and talked with them (verses 22-23). That's

when the armies of Israel would run toward the enemy only to have Goliath, once again, come out and taunt them. And once again, the armies of Israel backed off.

How many times have you faced a problem, only to remain defeated? It's time to be like David: Get your hopes up and run toward the enemy!

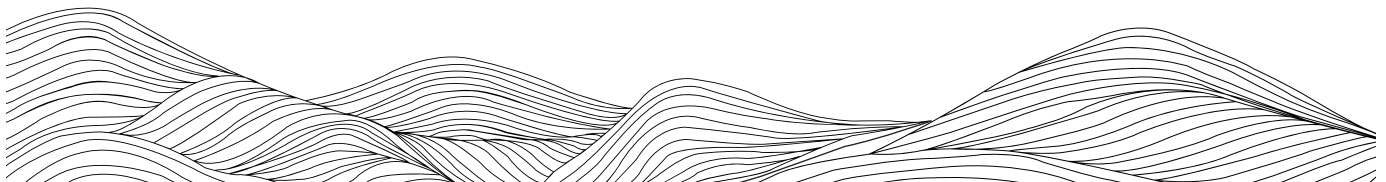
Notice what David did and said in that moment:

*And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel. And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? And the people answered him after this manner, saying, So shall it be done to the man that killeth him (verses 25-27).*

As I was reading and studying this passage one day, the Spirit of God said to me, *Notice what David said. Notice he called the man "this uncircumcised Philistine."*

David qualified his own faith and the enemy right there. Circumcision was a sign of the Blood covenant, the sworn oath Israel had with Almighty God, the Creator of the universe. And since the Philistines had no covenant with Him, they weren't circumcised. David, on the other hand, was the seed of Abraham, in Blood covenant with God Himself. David believed the promise of God that was backed by the blood of the covenant. God's WORD was already recorded in Deuteronomy 28:7, which says, "When your enemies shall come out against you one way, I'll cause them to flee before you seven ways." David was aware of that Covenant promise, and it altered his perspective.

What is equally important to note is that every





Israelite on that battlefield, from Saul to David, had the same Covenant. They all had the same promise and, if they had chosen to do so, could have all achieved supernatural results. But their hope was gone. It was based on what they could see. They didn't take hold of the promise of God but instead, they covered in fear.

As a born-again believer, you too have a Blood Covenant with God. Through the shed blood of Jesus, you have an even better covenant with better promises than David did (Hebrews 8:6). Whatever giant is taunting and roaring against you, just like Goliath, it can't stand against the promises of God.

You have the choice of either allowing your problems to defeat you or using them as valuable opportunities. The difference depends on whether you look at them through the eye of faith or through your natural eye. As a Covenant man or woman, a born-again believer must look first at things in life based on the blood of Jesus and Name of Jesus that's above every name. Then a born-again believer must look at what The WORD of our Covenant says—not the size of the mountain or the giant.

"Yeah, that sounds great, Brother Copeland, but you just don't understand what kind of financial difficulty I have. They're going to repossess my car and my house." Or maybe you say, "You don't know what the doctors say about my prognosis. It's not good." Or even, "I just don't see any way to win this battle I'm in."

Those are Goliaths shouting at you, and just like the army of Israel, you've been running back to your trench. But if you'll get before God, get in His WORD, find His promises for your situation, and build your hope up on The WORD, you'll overcome that giant problem.

When David saw Goliath, he saw a prize.

Remember what he said? "What do I get if I kill him?" David was full of faith. He knew his covenant with God.

Be aware of your Covenant with God and stir up the anointing inside you. When you feed your hope and faith with The WORD of God like David did, you'll be talking the victory all the way through the battle, and absolutely nothing will be able to defeat you.

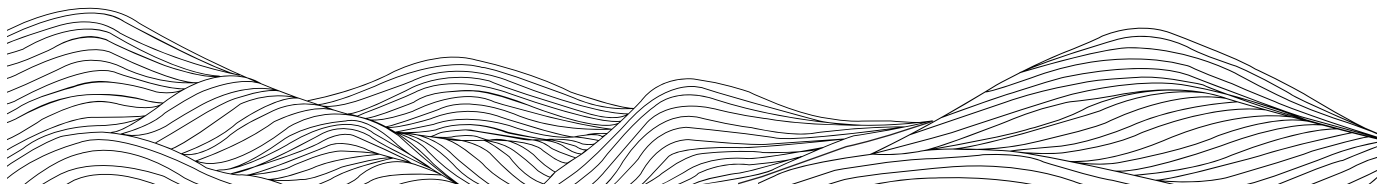
So fill your mouth with God's WORD. Then like David, who ran toward his enemy, run toward the giant coming against you, speaking your faith just as he did. Stay with it. You're ensuring your victory and guaranteeing that, with faith and hope, you'll take the prize!

## Points of Hope:

- » The Greek word for God's love is *agape*. It is His unconditional, selfless and giving nature.
- » God's hesed-agape transcends human love. It is His lovingkindness, or His goodness.
- » Hope is the blueprint, Faith is the substance, Love is the power.

## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for Your hesed-agape toward me. I am so thankful that there is nothing I can ever do to make You love me any more or any less. Give me revelation of what is the breadth, the depth the length and height; and to know Your love that passes understanding so that I may be filled with all Your fullness (Ephesians 3:14-21). In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





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## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

What giants are rising up in your life? What does The WORD say about them? List those promises out and read and declare them daily until you see the victory!

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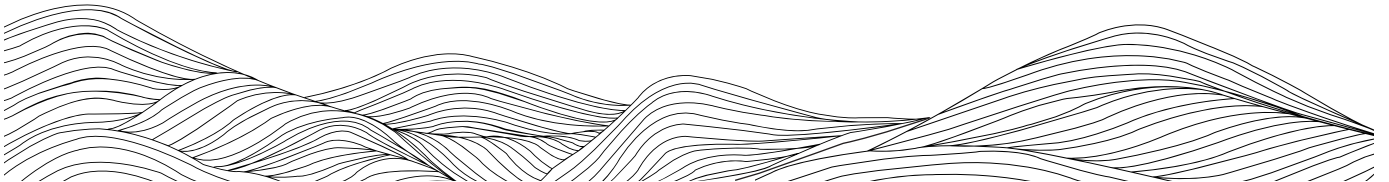
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# Day 11

## Launch the Counterattack

***“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”***

**Romans 15:4 (KJV)**

No matter what comes against you, keep talking the victory. Keep speaking The WORD to your circumstances. Whatever mountain you're facing, it will talk to you as long as you let it. That's what Jesus meant when he said that we're to have the faith of God and speak to the mountain—**not** keep listening to it speak to us.

As you learned yesterday, Goliath talked to the armies of Israel every day for 40 days, and they said nothing in response. They let the giant intimidate them. That giant had a big mouth that defied the armies of Israel and the living God. He cursed them by his gods and roared abuse and intimidation against them. Your situation will do the same to you, until, like David, you tell that mountain, that giant, what God says, and then act on it. It will be removed and cast into the sea—as if it never existed. You have God's WORD on it!

I experienced that firsthand. One night, I was walking down my hallway in the dark when I accidentally kicked a big ottoman. How it got in the hall, I don't know, but I kicked it hard. The pain instantly shot up my leg, and I started hollering, “Oh, praise God, praise God, praise God! By His stripes, I'm healed!” I knew that what I said in that moment would trigger the hope inside me.

When difficulties come, we can either set the

hope before us from The WORD and believe for something good; or look at the situation, believe what we see and feel, and receive something bad. I wasn't going to receive a broken toe.

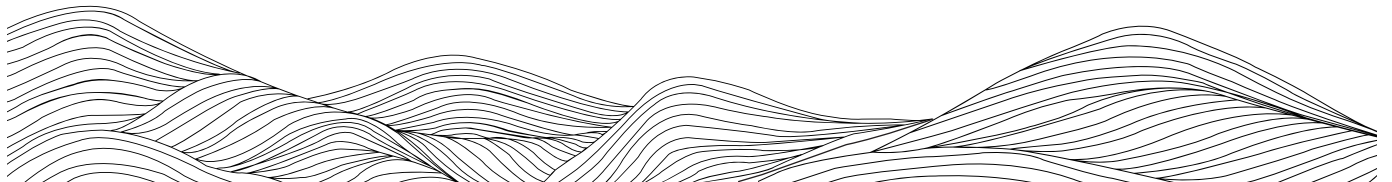
When we say we believe something, that mechanism inside us goes to work, just like our digestive system kicks into action when we take a bite of food. It doesn't wait until we say, “I need to get my stomach going.” It simply does what it's designed to do.

The spirit man is the same way with spiritual matters. If you say, “I believe I'm catching the flu,” well, you've just invited it in. It's already headed to your household to take you over and put you in bed as long as you'll stay there.

The entire time I was earnestly, intensely expecting the manifestation of healing for my toe, I was talking the victory.

I was following David's example. The more he talked about defeating Goliath, the stronger he became. He began by shouting at the giant, “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the Name of The LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied” (1 Samuel 17:45, KJV).

Notice he didn't stop talking to listen to what the giant had to say. He kept talking his faith: “This day will The LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel” (verse 46).







David was full of faith in his covenant with God. He ran toward Goliath, put a stone in his sling, shot that stone, and it sank into Goliath's forehead (verses 49-50). In verse 51, it says, "Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith."

Why did David cut Goliath's head off? Because Goliath wasn't dead, only unconscious. Through his previous experiences, David had learned not to let the enemy get up again. He had learned the lesson of the counterattack.

**Don't let the devil fool you into quitting your offensive just because you start experiencing a little victory.** If you are believing for your healing, it's not time to sit down and watch TV just because you are feeling a little better. It's time to praise The LORD. Keep hammering the devil with The WORD until he decides he isn't coming back a second time.

More battles are lost by believers in the counterattack than in the original attack because they relax the offensive. The temptation is to drop your guard when you begin feeling better or you can see there is a little breakthrough. The devil will come back with his attack. The second time is worse. If you allow discouragement to enter in and say things like, "Oh, I thought I had my healing, but I guess I didn't," you've played right into the devil's hands.

Instead, run toward the enemy, like David, and mount a renewed offensive with The WORD of God. When you've won the first round, take the sword of the Spirit and cut the head off that problem before you quit. Be like David. Even after he took off the head of that giant, he was still talking the victory (1 Samuel 17:51-57)!

The Philistines saw that their champion was

dead, so they ran, with the men of Israel chasing after them. They chased them all the way through Goliath's hometown of Gath. Can you imagine those Philistines running back through Gath shouting, "Goliath is dead! Goliath is dead!"?

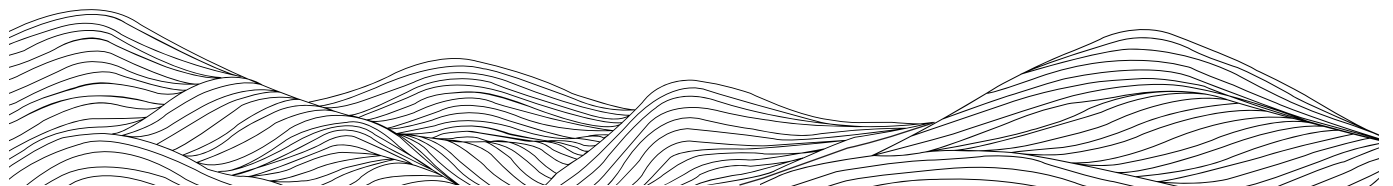
That kind of victory is comparable to telling everyone you see: "They diagnosed me with cancer and said I had to die. But I'm here today to tell you I'm not dead, and I'm not going to die. I am healed and well!"

That's when you have the devil's head in your hand. That's when you have cancer or any other disease or challenge by the hair of the head, and you're slinging it in every direction. You're letting people know you overcame the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony (Revelation 12:11).

David did just that. The more he talked, the stronger he became, until he finally got right in the devil's face and started talking to that mountain. That same victory is yours as a Covenant child of Almighty God, filled with His Spirit and His WORD!

What I've described to you in the life of David is what real gospel hope is. David had an earnest, intense expectation of victory. He was fully persuaded because of his covenant—the blood-sworn oath—he had with God. He got his hope from The WORD—the same place Abraham and Jesus and Paul and James and John got it. It's where New Covenant believers get it. The same victory they got belongs to you. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He has given you His sword (His WORD), His Name, His blood, His armor, His authority and His very Spirit. He said He would be with you always (Matthew 28:20). You're fully equipped and commissioned.

Meditate and dwell on The WORD for your victory. Build strong hope. Speak your faith against





the mountain and water it with praise until you see your Goliath lying on his back instead of standing there telling you you're not going to make it!

## Points of Hope:

- » Don't let the devil fool you into backing off from your offensive just because you start experiencing a little victory.
- » The WORD is the key to winning any battle. When you see evidence of your breakthrough or miracles, keep standing on The WORD. Like David, run after your enemy with the promises of God and refuse to let up.

## Prayer:

*Father, I continue to thank You for Your provision. I will not give up. I will continue to stand on Your WORD. It will fill my mind and my mouth even after I receive my miracle. I will give the enemy no place to attack. Your WORD stands true, and I praise You for it! In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

What are you standing for? Have you seen the manifestation of your miracle? How will you continue to stand even when your breakthrough comes?

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# Day 12

## Hope Set Before Us

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

The hope of being somehow BLESSED by God has been mankind’s quest since the Fall of Adam. But God’s empowerment—THE BLESSING—has been available in Him from the foundation of the world!

**So, how do you tap into THE BLESSING?**

First, let’s find out what it is. THE BLESSING Almighty God spoke over Adam—the first words to strike the human ear—were words of empowerment filled with the life, glory and dominion of God Himself. Those words came from the very insides of God and infused Adam and his wife with the ability to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...” (Genesis 1:28, *KJV*).

When God spoke THE BLESSING over Adam, His words gave dominion over the entire earth realm to Adam and his wife.

However, when an outlaw spirit, a fallen angel by the name of Lucifer, came into the Garden, he tempted them to disobey God. By doing so, Adam and Eve bowed the knee to God’s enemy, now called satan, which means “adversary,” and committed high treason against God. The God-given authority and dominion they once had, suddenly became the property of God’s enemy. At that moment, Adam and Eve became slaves to this fallen angel, who had been stripped of his

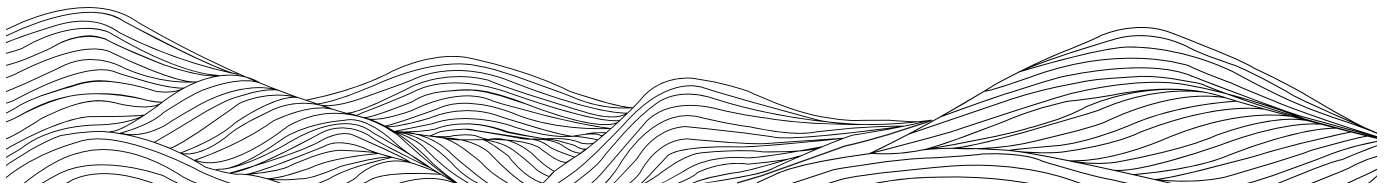
own anointing and glory and cast out of heaven for mounting a rebellion against God Himself (Isaiah 14:9-14; Luke 10:17-19).

As a result of their rebellion, Adam and his wife’s hope and faith were stolen. Adam’s new lord took everything he had. Adam’s faith was twisted into fear, his hope of glory turned to despair (Colossians 1:27). God’s eternal love inside him became hate, and his courage and strength turned to weakness. In Adam’s place, satan had now become “the god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

**After Adam’s treason, God was on the outside looking in.** He couldn’t just barge His way back into the earth, because Adam had released his God-given dominion over the earth to satan.

Many generations later, after the earth had become totally corrupt and filled with violence through the curse that was now in operation, God set out to start over with a man named Noah—the only righteous man left in the earth (Genesis 6:8, 7:1). After the great Flood that filled the earth, God spoke the same words of empowerment, THE BLESSING, over Noah when he, his family and the animals emerged from the Ark.

Ten generations later, God approached a man named Abram and introduced Himself. If Abram would partner with Him and do what He said, The LORD would prosper him and BLESS his descendants. God spoke the same covenant words of THE BLESSING again. God told Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham: “I will make of thee a great nation, I will BLESS you and make your name great, and you shall be a BLESSING.





I will BLESS them that BLESS you, I will curse him that curses you, and in thee shall all families of the earth be BLESSED” (Genesis 12:1, 13:15-16, 17:1-6).

Sound familiar? In Chapter 13, we start to see the effects of THE BLESSING working in Abraham’s life. Everywhere he went, THE BLESSING turned everything around him into the conditions of the Garden of Eden. He became very rich. He had silver and gold, huge herds of cattle and flocks of sheep (verse 2), and more than 318 servants (Chapter 14:14).

“Well, that’s great, Brother Copeland, but what does all this have to do with me?”

I’m glad you asked that. I’ve got some great news for you! When Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, died on the cross, He became the curse that came into the earth when Adam sinned (Galatians 3:13). He paid the price for Adam’s treason for you and me, so that mankind could get back to God and walk in the same BLESSING originally spoken over Adam, then Noah, then Abraham, and...

Are you ready to shout?

Take a look at Galatians 3:29: “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (*KJV*). If you’ve made Jesus your Savior and LORD, you are now the seed of Abraham, and an heir to the promise—THE BLESSING!

That same BLESSING belongs to you and me!

In fact, all the BLESSINGS that belong to us in the New Covenant—salvation, prosperity, healing, the gifts of the Holy Spirit—are all part of one BLESSING—THE BLESSING—God spoke

over Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. That one BLESSING spoken by God in Genesis 1:28, set forth God’s will for all mankind, for all time.

With that one BLESSING, God bestowed on

mankind everything they would ever need to become all He had created them to be, and to do all He had destined them to do. It’s so powerful and so foundational, that Jesus, the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45), preached it and demonstrated it throughout His earthly ministry.

**Jesus did all these things for a reason.** He walked in and demonstrated the power and glory of THE BLESSING so you and I, through hope and by faith, could walk in it, receive its benefits, and take it to the world around us!

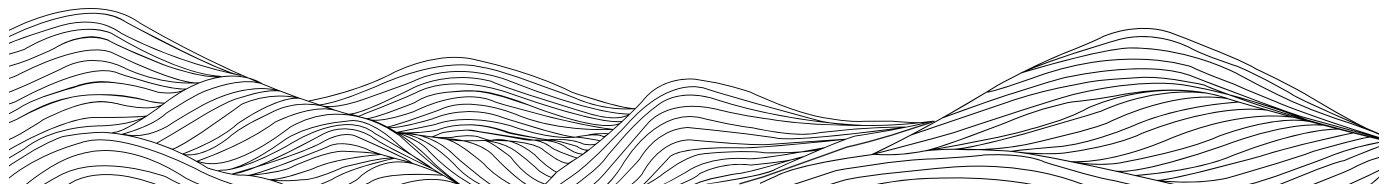
The hope of the gospel, the good news, goes beyond the wonderful news that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. That’s only the beginning. It’s the good news that He came to not only take our sin and rebellion against God, but to restore us to our rightful place in THE BLESSING and all its fullness.

Jesus, God’s hope for mankind, is the door to enter, once again, into the kingdom of God and the power of THE BLESSING (John 10:7, 9). He came to undo all the devil had done in the Garden of Eden and restore mankind’s hope of the glory of God.

Find out what belongs to you. Start meditating on these scriptures about THE BLESSING. Get your hopes up. Realize that you are now the seed of Abraham and an heir according to the promise.

**Rejoice in the hope set before you!**

If you’ll keep your hope strong before you and stay with it, you can expect THE BLESSING flood of provision, health and freedom to flow into every area of your life!





## Points of Hope:

- » God’s empowerment—THE BLESSING—has been available in Him from the foundation of the world.
- » THE BLESSING God spoke over mankind in Genesis is His will for all of mankind, for all time. That means it is still His will for us today.
- » We have access to THE BLESSING because of Jesus. His life on earth serves as a demonstration of all that can be done through Bible hope, faith and the God kind of love!

## Prayer:

*Father, I thank You for Your WORD and THE BLESSING You have bestowed upon me. I set my hope on You and Your WORD, Your glory and Your promises. I rejoice in the hope You have set before me, and I trust You to bring it to pass in every area of my life and family. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

## Paint the Picture (Journaling):

Are you walking in THE BLESSING of The LORD? What situations in your life could benefit from THE BLESSING at work in you? Write these BLESSING scriptures down on sticky notes or notecards and keep them before your eyes:

**Proverbs 10:22; Genesis 1:28, Galatians 3:8,13-14, 29; Deuteronomy 11:26-28**

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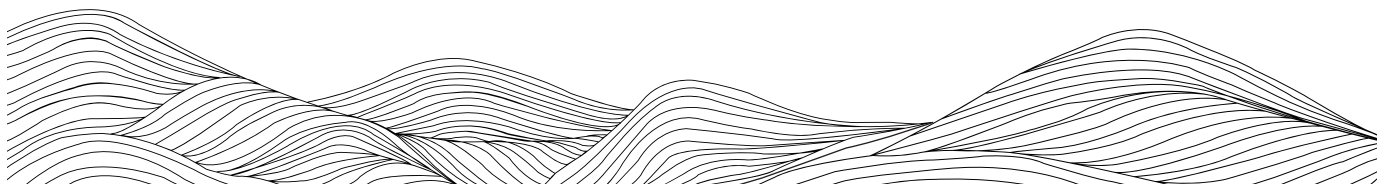
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# It's THE Way of LIFE

## *Applying Hope To Walk by Faith Into Victory*

As you build your hope on The WORD of God, remember these steps:

1. Since hope comes from God's WORD, find His promises that cover your situation.
2. Anchor your soul with The WORD. Lay hold of the hope that is set before you. Point your finger at that Bible promise and say out loud, "I believe that. It's mine. That's talking about me!"
3. Think about that promise all day long. Build that inner image inside you. See yourself with the answer. When your mind tells you that you can't do it or that it's not working, cast down those imaginations. Say, "I can do all things through Christ—the Anointed One and His Anointing—which strengthens me. It's already done, in the Name of Jesus" (Philippians 4:13).
4. Put God's promises in your mouth all day long. Speak your faith by saying those verses. Say them before The LORD. Say them before the devil. Say them so your own ears can hear them, hundreds, even thousands of times, if that's what it takes. Say them until that earnest, intense, favorable, confident expectation rises up in you.
5. Cast all your care over on God the Father. Receive His peace that passes all understanding that will guard your heart and mind through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).
6. Be diligent. Spend time every day in The WORD and feed your hope. You'll be so glad you did!

Remember, this is not "a" way of life...it's "THE" way of life. Make your life one that says,

*"I have determined in my spirit...I have based my hope on The WORD of God. I have a Covenant with Almighty God Himself, that's backed by the eternal blood of my LORD Jesus Christ that was shed for me. I can't fail because He can't fail. I am in Him. Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). I have crossed the faith line, and I know I already have the victory over every situation the devil throws my way. And with God—with the Anointed One and His Anointing in and on me—I can do anything."*

**Get your hopes up as high as they will go!**





# Prayer of Salvation/ Recommitment

*Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21, KJV). I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9-10: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." I do that now. I repent of my sin, confess that Jesus is Lord, and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead.*

*I am now reborn! I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13). I'm also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4).*

*Finally, God, as Your child, I thank You for giving me the forces of love, faith and hope. I ask that You teach me how to believe in and receive Your covenantal promises. I rebuke hopelessness from my life. It is a lie from the enemy, and I refuse to accept it. From here on, I commit to confidently having hope in You and expecting all things to work for my good, because You are a good, good Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen!*

Hallelujah! Begin to rejoice and praise God for saving you, filling you with the Holy Spirit, and blessing you with fresh love, faith and hope!

Begin to pray in the spirit every day. Speak those words and syllables you receive. Don't be concerned with how it sounds. It is a heavenly language!

Find a good church that boldly preaches God's Word and obeys it. Become part of a church family who will love and care for you as you love and care for them. We need to be connected to each other. It increases our strength in God. It's God's plan for us.

Make it a habit to watch the Believer's Voice of Victory broadcast and VICTORY Channel—where you'll find endless hope for any time and every season!

If you've just prayed this prayer, please go to [kcm.org/salvation](http://kcm.org/salvation) and request our **FREE Salvation Package** to be sent to you. We know it will bless you with next steps and encouragement in the Word of God.

