

Giving Hope

**THE GOSPEL
INSTITUTE**

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Part I. Giving Hope

Hope (Inspiration) refers to giving hope in the

- Person of Christ – who?
- Promises of Jesus Christ – what?
- Power of Jesus Christ – how?
- Presence of Jesus Christ – where?
- Plan of Jesus Christ – when? (past, present, future)

Hope for non-believers

Part II. Hopelessness

- **Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.** (Prov. 13:12)
- For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes. (Ps. 119:83)
- A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Prov. 17:22)
- Little change/growth
- Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. (Prov. 12:25 ESV)
- A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. (Prov. 15:13 ESV)
- (Job 6:11; 17:15 19:10; 1 Thess. 4:13)

Part III. False Hope

- Denying reality, minimizing
- Fantasy, Mystical or Magical thinking
- Banks on fulfilling one's desires
- Banks on changed circumstances
- Banks on bad theology
- Believes in something that can't or won't deliver
- Unbiblical prayers (Ja. 4:3)
- *But we had hoped he would redeem Israel.* (Lu.24:21)

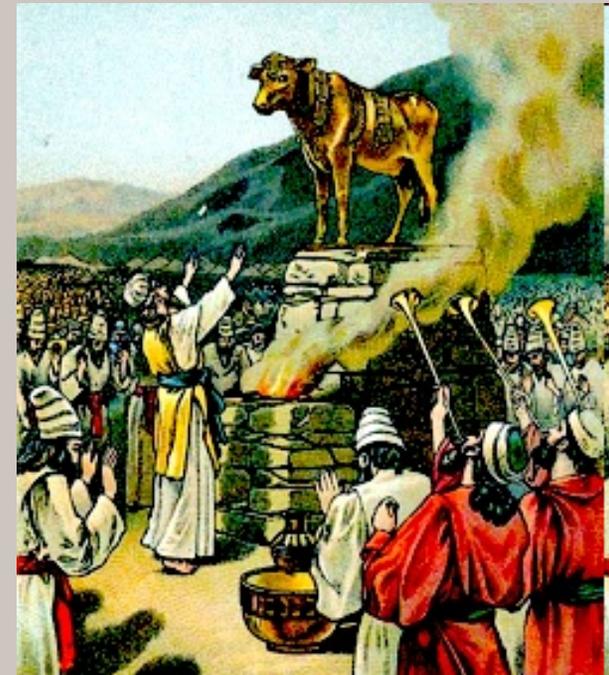


Part III. False Hope

- Wrong use or interpretation of Scriptures
- “Flip-an-see” method - “I opened to _____ and God told me...”
- “I know God will _____”
- “God is always there for me”
- The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish. (Pr. 10:28)

Exposing false-hope and warning of its results is a loving act!!

“Christlike disciplers love the goal and those they lead, more than they love themselves.”



Part IV. True Hope is Only in God

- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:1-9)

Part. IV. True Hope – Knowing Truth

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for **you know** that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. (Ja. 1:2-5)

And we have **the prophetic word more fully confirmed**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **knowing** this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (2 Pet.1:19-20)

Part IV. True Hope – Rooted in Salvation

- The hope of the righteous brings joy, ...(Prov. 10:28a)
- I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure [in hope-KJV]. (Ps. 16:8-9)
- The wicked is overthrown through his evildoing, but the righteous finds refuge in his death. (Prov. 14:32)
- But now he [David's infant son] is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Sam. 12:23)

Part IV. True Hope and Faith

- Faith looks back - believing in what God has said He has done.
- ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (Lu.16:31)
- Hope is faith looking forward to what God says he will do.
- For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; (Acts 2:25 – quoting Ps. 16:8-11)

Part IV. True Hope is a Choice

- Based on a “Satellite-perspective” of the Creation-Fall-Redemption-Consummation Story.
- Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
(1 Pet. 1:13)

Part V. Hope Giving Principles:

No. 1 - Living Your Own Hope

- Show by example - you must believe in, embrace and walk in the comfort of God's character, sustained in hope in your trials.
- The acronym "S.H.A.L.O.M.E.¹" can help you meditate on how God's character can build hope in you and others:
 - Sovereign
 - Holy
 - Active
 - Loving
 - Omnipotent, Omnipotent, Omniscient
 - Merciful
 - Eternal
- You will experience trials so that you can be one step ahead of those to whom you minister.

Part V. Hope Giving Principles: No. 2 – Give Biblical Foundations

- Pray, Pray, Pray
- Discern genuine salvation
- Define problems biblically (over time)
- Discern between truth/reality vs. feelings
- Describe your goals and bias
 - Sufficiency of Christ, Scripture
 - Holy Spirit and prayer our power for change
 - Centrality & authority of the Local Church
 - Perspective, purpose, learning & responding
 - You are after their minds/hearts! Not necessarily to change circumstances; but to equip to respond please/glorify God.



Part V. Hope-Giving Principles:

No. 3 – Listen with Respect

- But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. (1 Thess. 2:7-8)
- Don't answer before you hear (Prov.18:13)
- Ask questions to “see” their world through their eyes; refuse to assume definitions or jump to conclusions, clarify



Part V. Hope-Giving Principles:

No. 4 - Develop Biblical Perspective

- Communicate love, compassion, and understanding...
- Acknowledge the realities of pain and suffering first...they know their sin, at least to a degree.
- Turn a corner, re-frame their world, re-tell their story using biblical terminology & explanations; describe the realities of pain & suffering, label sin biblically, with discretion & grace.
- Draw “a Trouble-pie” [more on this next week] to clarify that you heard their story accurately.
- Explain the dynamics of suffering (heat) & sin (harvest).
- A different perspective gives hope - “Now that’s a different way to look at it”¹.

THE DRAMA OF GOD

IN FOUR ACTS



ACT 1 CREATION

**GOD IS
THE CREATOR**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1*

**MAN WAS MADE
IN HIS IMAGE**

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."
Genesis 1:26*

**EVERYTHING WAS
GOOD**

*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
Genesis 1:31*

**MAN WAS MADE
FOR PERFECT FELLOWSHIP**

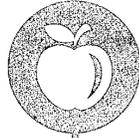
*Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Psalm 100:3*



ACT 2 FALL

THE DRAMA OF GOD

IN FOUR ACTS



ACT 2
FALL

MAN FELL INTO SIN

*...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
Genesis 3:6*

MAN WAS BANISHED FROM
GOD'S PRESENCE

*...therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden...
Genesis 3:23*

MAN'S RELATIONSHIP
FROM GOD WAS SEVERED

*But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
Isaiah 59:2*

MAN AND THE EARTH
NOW LIVED UNDER A CURSE

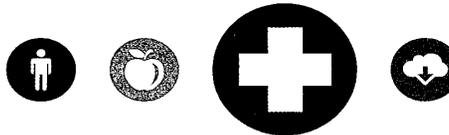
*Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;
Isaiah 24:6*

ACT 3 REDEMPTION



THE DRAMA OF GOD

IN FOUR ACTS



ACT 3 REDEMPTION

JESUS LIVED A PERFECT LIFE

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
Hebrews 4:15*

GOD SENT JESUS AS OUR REPRESENTATIVE

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21*

JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM DEATH

*That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

WE ARE REDEEMED THROUGH CHRIST'S BIRTH, DEATH, & RESURRECTION

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
Ephesians 1:7*

ACT 4 NEW CREATION

THE DRAMA OF GOD

IN FOUR ACTS



ACT 4 NEW CREATION

GOD WILL BANISH SIN FOREVER

*...as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
Psalm 103:12*

MAN WILL BE IN PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD FOREVER

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

LIFE & RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE AS GOD INTENDED FOREVER

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.
Revelation 21:4*

JESUS WILL RETURN AND REIGN FOREVER

*And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
Luke 1:32-33*



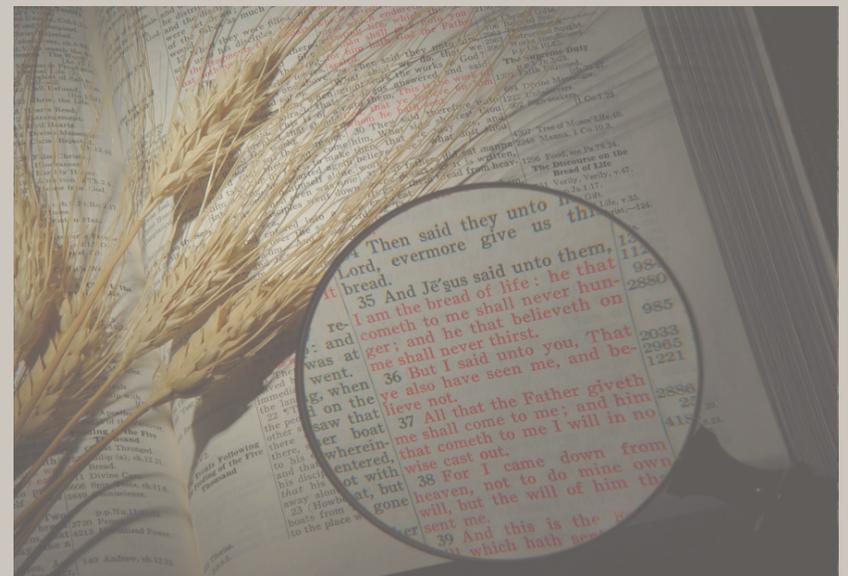
Part V. Hope-Giving Principles:

No. 5 - Point towards the Person of Christ

- The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. (Is. 61:1-3)

Part V. Hope-Giving Principles: No. 6 - Magnify the Person of Christ

- Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)
- Christ' Mission-statement - Good news; broken-hearted; liberty; comfort; beauty for ashes; oaks of righteousness (Is. 61:1-3)
- Christ Jesus our hope (1 Tim. 1:1b)



Part V. Hope-Giving Principles:

No. 7 - Magnify the Power of Christ

- And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:18)
- but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor. 1:23-24)
- But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Part V. Hope-Giving Principles:

No. 8 - Magnify the Promises of Christ

- ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²²and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph.3:6)
- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, (2 Tim.1:1; see. Jn. 10:10)

Part VI. Homework: Gaining a Commitment

- I need your cooperation - a learner's spirit
- I need your commitment - a doer
- I need you to be candid - honest, transparent
- I need your calendar – investment
- Keep it simple

Part VI. Homework:

Practical Ways to apply Scripture

- Do *God in the Psalms* exercise
http://www.bethanycommunitychurch.org/resources/docs/1434-god_in_the_psalms.pdf
- Read the Article, *Hold on, There's Hope*
http://www.bethanycommunitychurch.org/resources/docs/1435-hold_on-theres_hope.pdf
- Read Isaiah, chapters 40-48, record what you learn about God and His Promises to His children, “preach” that truth to yourself throughout each day this week.
- Read Is. 50-55; repeat the above instructions
- Read Ps. 19; repeat the above instructions

Part VI. Homework:

Applying Truth

- Read Is. 59-65; repeat the above instructions
- Read Zeph. 1-3, record principles that you can apply to your own life right now.
- Read the Book of 1st Peter, record promises, principles that you can apply to your own life right now.
- Booklets *Christ and your Problems, How to Handle Trouble*
- Chapter 22 in the Christ-Centered Biblical Counseling book