

**Hope – Part 3**  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**"From 'How Long' to Hope!"**

**Intro:**

- Hope series – Maybe you need to Forward 1 of the Messages to someone who needs it!
  - Box / Soul Message – Wk 1
  - Last Week – Lazarus – God's Ways are not like ours...
- One of our Launch Verses is Romans 15:13, lets Reread it together...

**Rm 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

**PRAY**

**? When was the last time you asked, “How Long?”**

- GETTING YOUR BABY TO SLEEP
  - TIL MY TEAM HAS A WINNING SEASON AGAIN
  - WAITING FOR HOME REPAIR GUY TO CALL YOU BACK
  - TEENAGER GIVING ATTITUDE / PARENT GIVING YOU ATTITUDE
  - ON HOLD W/ INSURANCE COMPANY
  - TIL MY NEXT VACATION / DAY OFF
  - TIL I'M OUT OF THIS MESS / HOLE / PIT / DEPRESSION / THOUGHTS
  - TIL THE WORD “HURRICANE IAN” IS OUT OF OUR VOCABULARY?
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- Today, I want us to look at a Psalm of David (like a Journal Entry) where David asks the Exact same question that many of us are asking right now!
    - “How Long, Lord???”
  - Before we turn there, let me give us some context...
    - David is in a Super Low Season... Many believe: Absalom betrayal...
    - Regardless, he's feeling Alone, Abandoned & Forgotten!

**Psalm 13:1 "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"**

- He must have been on Hold w/ his Insurance Company too!

v. 2 "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?"

- Man, we can relate to that in this season, can't we???
  - Wrestling our Thoughts / Day after Day / Sorrow in our Heart!
- Okay, so David is in a Low Season... But here's the craziest thing ever...
- Look how he ends the Psalm just 4 verses later...

v. 6 "I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me."

? What?!? How can David go from *"Seriously God!?! Where are you right now?"* to *"You've been so, so good to me!!!"*

- From Overwhelming Sorrow to So. Much. Hope???
- How is that possible?!?

- & More Personally... How can WE go from "How Long, Lord?" to "Hope?"
- The answer is hidden in the verses in between... vv. 3, 4 & 5!!!

- *How Long / How Long / How Long, then he says...*

v. 3-4 "Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall."

- IOW, God, if you don't intervene in my situation, I'm done for!
- But then look what he says...

v. 5 "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."

### 3 Thoughts on How David goes from "How Long" to "Hope:"

? How do we Move from "How Long" to Hope? By recognizing that...

**1. Hope comes from Trusting in God's Unfailing Love!**

A. David didn't trust in his own Power, or Might, or Ability to Defeat his enemies & fix everything, He turned to God's Love!!!

- The thing that sustained David was a Focus not on God's Hand, but on God's Heart!!!

B. Last Wk we talked about How we have a Plan for God's Plan & when God doesn't work according to Our "Plan" then we think He failed us.

- Church – God doesn't want us to Focus on Trying to figure it all out, He wants us to Focus on HIS LOVE!!!

C. BEING BLINDFOLDED & TRUSTING THE PERSON LEADING YOU ILL

- You simply take them by the hand & trust them to lead you where you need to go!

- That's where some of us are at in this season!

- God is saying, "Son / Daughter, will you just take My hand & trust Me?

- I'm going to get you through this, stop swatting My hand & just take it!!!

D. MIP: You need to ReUp to Trust!

- If we will trust in His Unfailing Love, we will see Him every time & be left with no other expression but "He's been so good to me!"

*"By Recognizing that..."*

**2. Hope comes from Remembering our Salvation.**

**v. 5 "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation."**

A. Battle breeds Complexity.

- That's why David starts the Psalm with "How long, Lord?" "How God?" How? How? How?

B. In Life, as long as we are looking at our Circumstances, we will always be left with more "How's" and "How Long's" then we know what to do with!!!

- David was saying, *"I'm in the midst of a huge battle right now, but this one thing I CAN rejoice in... I'm a Child of God!!! I'm Saved! I belong to Him!"*

- Win or Lose... I win b/c I have Jesus & that's enough!
- MATT NIEVES STORY OF THAT LADY IN THE TRAILER PARK???

**C. Church - Hope changes our Heart from Fear to Rejoicing!!!**

- David could say that his heart rejoiced in his salvation b/c win or lose, David knew where His salvation came from!!!

**D. MIP: Hope & Peace come when our prayers switch from "How" to "Heart." - From External to Internal!!!**

- David's peace and change of Perspective didn't come b/c God told him all of How it was all going to work out!
- We are always gonna need faith for our next step & then the next step & then the next step!

**E. Hope & Peace come when we let our heart return to the Simplicity of what we know is true...**

- *I'm a child of God. - I'm safe in His arms! - He is my Rock!*
- *He will never fail. - He is my healer! - He is my deliverer!*
- *He is my strong tower! - He is my Everything!!!*

**F. Sarah & I are So Proud of So Many of you!**

- You are facing trials like you never have before & yet, you are not losing heart!
- You're still standing / still serving / still giving / still sowing / still loving / still smiling / still trusting / still leaning on Jesus everyday!

***"By Recognizing that..."***

**3. Hope gives Light to our Eyes.**

**v. 3 "Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death..."**

**A. IOW... Trusting in God changes the way we see!**

- Otherwise, we sleep in death! AKA... it all just looks Hopeless!!!

**B. Hope lives in Trust!**

- Not Trust that all the Battles will be gone & everything will be easy with no warfare or struggle!
- Trust that God's Love is Enough!!!

**C. When we have Trust, we can see differently, even though nothing outwardly has changed!**

**D. Trust knows that God is "looking on us..." v. 3**

- He may not be changing our circumstances right away, but just knowing our Father is watching over us, changes everything!!!
- We can see Him "seeing us" and that causes us to say, "you've been so, so good to me!"

**E. MIP: ? Do you need to Change the Way you've been Seeing lately?**

- Seeing thru the Lens of Fear / Pessimism / Anger / Scarcity
- God wants you to start seeing thru the Lens of:
  - Hope / Faith / Trust / Thanksgiving / Joy / Optimism / LOVE!

### **3 Challenges:**

- 1. Where have you been trying to get your Hope from? (Where's ur Focus?)**
  - Your Circumstances changing? People? The Gov't? The Economy?
  - Your Employer calling you back? FEMA?
  - God's "Hand" somewhere or somehow?
  - Anything but His LOVE is the wrong focus!
    - Our Hope comes from knowing we are Dearly Loved & that is enough!!!

- 2. Where do you need to stop asking "How" & start asking "Heart?"**
  - ? God, what are you trying to do in me?

- 3. Where do you need God to restore your Hope?**

**TIME OF PRAYER**

**God, You're so Good song!**