

**Hope - Part 5 – Week 10 Post- Hurricane Ian**  
**What Makes Hope Grow?**  
**November 27th, 2022**

**Intro:**

- Welcome our church family!- Locations and Online Family**
- We have been in a collection of messages all about Hope. Hope that we find in Jesus in the midst of the crisis in our lives.**
- Church we are 10 weeks past the Hurricane and we just celebrated Thanksgiving together. I add something here personal from the past week!**
- The realities for each of the people at my house for Thanksgiving were different, different in how they are thankful, how they are processing all that has happened in each of their lives.**
- We all have had crisis in our lives and have all faced those crises in different ways.**
- I learned in this process from experts that “crisis is not an event, crisis is how you and I respond to an event!”**
  - What does this mean... that you might not have been affected by the hurricane and still be in crisis.**
  - Maybe the event that has brought crisis was...**
    - The hurricane**
    - Stuff going wrong in your marriage**
    - Financial problems**
    - Health issues**
    - Relationship strife**

**- How each of us responds to these events in our lives creates the crisis we are experiencing.**

**Disclaimer: This does not mean it's your fault or you're not normal!**

**- I have also learned that... "normal people respond in normal ways to abnormal events"**

**- Normal Responds**

**-High Anxiety**

**-Mental Confusions**

**-Sweating**

**-gastric distress**

**-elevated heart rate**

**-Anger at God**

**-Self/ Others blaming**

**-Depression**

**- Normal People with normal responses to abnormal events.**

**- Church Family we are normal people responding normally to a lot of hard events that have happened in our lives.**

**You're Not... Crazy or weird, you're human!**

**Truth:**

**John 16:33 Jesus said... "in Me you may have peace (hope). In this world you will have trouble, But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

**" In Me you may have peace and hope."**

**We have been talking about this for the past month. HOPE! Having Hope in Jesus!**

**I am so thankful and want to honor our Pastors for not just telling us to get over it and just trust in God. But to walk us through a process of allowing our Heavenly Father to be who he is in our lives and meet us where we are... In our pain and hurt! In our crisis! In our normal response to all the abnormal events we have all been through and to lead us to a place hope in Jesus. That allows up to have faith and hope again!**

**Not in others, or things, or even things just being all better. But, in Jesus our Savior!**

**Every Sunday since the storm and even in between I feel like they have been the spiritual leading us back to Jesus over and over again for healing and direction for the next week. And I just want us to take a moment to honor them and thank God for them.**

**I want to as a pastor in your life keep doing that today. I want to remind us of some fundamentals to help you and I allow the Hope that we have been finding in Jesus to continue to grow.**

**But things don't grow on their own they need help and the same thing is true when it comes to what makes Hope grow in our lives too!**

**I want to give you 3 things that make hope grow!**

### **3 Things that Make Hope Grow in our Lives!**

**1<sup>st</sup>...**

#### **1. Daily Time with Jesus Makes Hope Grow.**

- a. Daily time with Jesus will grow our hope like nothing else.
- b. When we go through a crisis the rhythm of our lives gets out of rhythm doesn't it?
  - i. We don't sleep normal!
  - ii. We eat whatever is in front of us or we don't eat at all!
  - iii. We stop doing the healthy things in our lives!
- c. The same thing is true when it comes to our spiritual lives.
  - i. We get out of the habit of doing the things that lead us to a life with joy and hope.
  - ii. Or, we spend time with Jesus but its rushed.
- d. ILL. My weight loss journey was derailed in this season
- e. ILL. Same thing happened with my time with Jesus- I was reading my bible but I was not really spending time with Jesus.
  - i. Ritual vs. relationship
    - 1. We are not talking about checking off the box
    - 2. We are talking about being with Jesus the one that brings Hope and grows it.
    - 3. Just checking off the box will bring a false growth.

**John 16:33 Jesus said... "in Me you may have peace (hope). In this world you will have trouble, But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

**4. "In me you may have...**

- f. **MIP: Have you really been spending time with Jesus or just checking off the box?**

- g. What would it look like to really slow down with Jesus this week.
  - i. SOAP
  - ii. SOAK

The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing is...

**2. Being in Community Consistently Makes our Hope Grow.**

- a. One of the greatest ways for our hope to grow is by being in community with others.
- b. The Bible actually said that healing happens in community!
  - i. **James 5:15- 16 And the prayers offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.**
  - ii. What James is saying here is that not only does Jesus forgive us if we ask forgiveness of our sins but that if we get to the place of sharing those things with others we will be healed.
    - 1. Which is amazing but let's talk about this for a minute because I am all for the forgiveness of my sins with Jesus and it's one thing to trust him to confess them because he is Jesus.

2. But, to confess my sins to others... that's a whole other thing.
3. ILL. Men's group in my 20's that the leader wanted me to share everything I ever did the first time we meet.
  - a. I am sorry but I am guy, we don't like to talk about our "feelings" let alone our sins!
  - b. This is why us being in "Consistent" community matters and will lead to hope growing in our lives.
  - c. It takes some time for you and I to build up the trust we will need to "confess" or open up to others.

iii. MIP: What does this mean for us?

1. Are we in community? – Group, Church, Serve team
  2. Are we in community consistently?
- iv. God wants hope to grow in us but it's going to happen when we decide to consistently be in community.

The final thing is...

**3. Repentance Makes Hope Grow in our Lives.**

- a. When there is sin in our lives it stunts the growth of Hope in our lives.

i. Three major consequences to a lack of repentance...

1. It hurts our relationship with God.
2. It separates us from God.
3. It cuts off the flow of hope in our lives.
4. **Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.**

b. ILL> This happened to me five days after the event of Hurricane Ian.

i. My normal response to an abnormal event was left unchecked and it lead me to sin.

1. Anger – which is a normal response but I sinned out of my anger to others. Paul said be angry but to not sin.
2. Lack of empathy – my normal response of being tired led to the sin of judgement and led to empathy fatigue which hurt others.
3. Hopeless –

ii. Although I was having a normal response as a human I was not allowing the Holy Spirit in to heal me and I let my sin separate me from God and others and stunted the growth of hope in my life and I felt hopeless!

c. MIP: I had to repent and ask God for forgiveness.

i. **My act of Repentance = God's Forgiveness**

- ii. **God's Forgiveness = Hope Growing in my life!**
- iii. Look at the difference between the verse in Isaiah and this verse in... **2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land.**
- iv. **Our act of repentance also = God healing our land.**
- v. So, want about us Church Family...
  - 1. Where have our normal responses to abnormal events led us to sin in our lives?
  - 2. Where do we need to ask for forgiveness?
    - a. I am going to lead us through a corporate time of repentance through a prayer. If that's you with every eye closed and every head bowed will you lift your hand as an outward sign of your heart?
    - b. Pray them through this!
  - 3. Salvation- Pray
  - 4. Pray for the blessing of Hope to Grow!



