



Holding on to Hope in a Difficult Time

Prairie Rose EMC
Pastor Mike - Nov. 15, 2020
James

¹⁹ *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, (NIV84) Hebrews 6:19*

⁸ *You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door.* James 5:8-11

#1 We have hope because we know the difficulties won't last.

"This too shall pass."

¹⁰ *Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.* James 5:10-11

¹⁸ *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* 2 Cor. 4:18

#2 God will use the difficult times in our lives for our good.

²⁸ *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.* Romans 8:28

² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* James 1:2-4

¹⁷ *For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* 2 Cor. 4:17

Question: James 1:2-4 teaches us that facing our problems reinforces the foundation of our faith, builds our patience, develops our capacity to endure and strengthens our character. Looking back on past troubles, how did God change you to make you better equipped to serve Him? How is he growing you today?

#3 We know that getting irritated doesn't help.

¹⁹ *My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.* James 1:19-20

"Don't grumble against each other - or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!" James 5:9

Question: Think of uncontrollable situations in your life that make you behave irritably towards the people around you. How does anger, complaining or grumbling deplete the hope you need to keep going? How can you change your behavior?

#4 We know trusting God pleases him.

"Can you trust God without having all your questions answered in this time of uncertainty?"

²³ *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.*

James 2:23

#5 We know Jesus is coming back someday.

² *In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.* John 14:2-3

"You to, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." James 5:8

#6 We know this is not the end of the story.

“You put your hope in God.”

11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy” James 5:11

“What a gift life is to those who stay the course. You've heard of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end.” (The Message) James 5:11

Question: Job had lost everything, but his new life didn't look like his old life. If you have been hoping for things to get back to “normal”, how can you prepare to embrace the “new normal” that God may be bringing about? Will you still hold the same level of hope and trust in God if you lost every earthly thing you depend on today?

#7 We know we'll be rewarded one day.

12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:6

“What we suffered now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.” Romans 8:18

Question: The verses above promise a reward...prize... glory and good times. For all God's promises there is a premise. What is required to receive God's promises?

“What are you putting your hope in?”

“Your hope is only as good as what you put it in!”

Above in part based on material from Rick Warren

Sermon Notes FOR KIDS

WHO IS SPEAKING? _____

WORDS YOU HEARD BUT DON'T KNOW... _____

AS YOU ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE WITH YOUR FAMILY, USE THIS SHEET TO HELP YOU PAY ATTENTION AND LEARN. WE WANT YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US BY SINGING TO GOD AND LISTENING TO THE MESSAGE.

WHAT IS THE MAIN PASSAGE WE ARE READING TODAY?
BOOK: _____
CHAPTER: _____
VERSE: _____

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT GOD FROM THIS PASSAGE?

WHICH SONG FROM TODAY'S SERVICE IS YOUR FAVORITE AND WHY?

WRITE OR DRAW SOMETHING THAT YOU HEARD IN THE SERMON OR IN A SONG TODAY.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW WHILE IN SERVICE AND THEN, ON THE WAY HOME, TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU HEARD AND THE NOTES YOU WROTE DOWN.

★ I HEARD _____ TODAY
BUT WAS CONFUSED OR HAD A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT.

★ HEARING AND BELIEVING THAT GOD IS _____
CHANGES THE WAY I _____