

Build This House Part 4 “A House of Hope”

Message Recap

I. Hope Is A Light

Have you ever entered a room and the light bulbs were out or very dim? Was it difficult to see what was there and where you were going? A dimly lit room is like a heart with little or no hope. When we do not have hope in God, we cannot see where we are going or what He is doing around us. But, like a fresh lightbulb change, when we put our hope in God, He lights up the room. Hope is a confident expectation that what you desire will come to pass. God gives us hope through the 7000 promises found in His word (Romans 15:4). We can have joy and peace when our hope is found in Him (Romans 15:13).

II. Enemies of Your Hope

- 1. Disappointment-** Bad things happened, so you should expect bad things to happen again. Keep your expectations low.
- 2. Disillusionment-** What happened was not what I was expecting to happen
- 3. Discouragement-** Internal thoughts and external words that come against your hope.
- 4. Doubt-** Is it even possible? Can God even do it? Doubt is contagious
- 5. Defeat-** This is the end of my hope. This defeat is permanent. Defeat tries to name your future.

After her husband and father-in-law died, Eli's daughter-in-law went into labor and became discouraged. She did not listen to those around her trying to encourage her and named her son, Ichabod, meaning, "The Glory has departed from Israel"(1 Samuel 4). In Matthew 1:23, Jesus is given the name, "Immanuel", meaning, "God with us." We can choose which way we decide to live. We can choose Immanuel over Ichabod. Hope over despair. Our belief is what allows us to experience hope.

III. 5 Keys to Hope

- 1. Believe in the promises of God**
- 2. Receive the promises of God**
- 3. Surrender your plans for His purpose**
- 4. Surround yourself with others who are pregnant with hope**
- 5. Praise before the promise comes to pass**

Read and Discuss

Read Romans 15:4,13

1. What promises found in the Word give you hope?
2. Have you experienced joy and peace since putting your hope in God? What was life like before you placed your hope in God?

Read 1 Samuel 4:15-22

1. How can we guard against losing our hope like Eli and his daughter-in-law?
2. Do you have people who are speaking hope or discouragement into your life? Are their people that you are speaking hope into?

Read Matthew 1:23

1. What does “God with us” mean to you on a daily basis?
2. How does putting Jesus in the center of our lives keep our hope bright?

Romans 15:4

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:13

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.

1 Samuel 4:15-22

The man hurried over to Eli, 15 who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not see. 16 He told Eli, “I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day.”

Eli asked, “What happened, my son?”

17 The man who brought the news replied, “Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.”

18 When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led[b] Israel forty years.

19 His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. 20 As she was dying, the women attending her said, “Don’t despair; you have given birth to a son.” But she did not respond or pay any attention.

21 She named the boy Ichabod,[c] saying, “The Glory has departed from Israel”—because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. 22 She said, “The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.”

Matthew 1:23

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”[a] (which means “God with us”).