

OJ MATHIBA

HOPE DYNAMICS

— A 14 DAY DEVOTIONAL —



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1. THE ANATOMY OF HOPE

Day1. The Nature of Hope

Key text: 1 Corinthians 13:13

“13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Overview: Hope is like oxygen when we lose it we die. There is no bad place to be like a place without hope. A life without hope is always characterised by struggle. You suffocate alone and you find no reason to do anything. Hope is the fuel we need to keep driving our lives to the destiny that God has prepared for us.

Key thought: Hope is your greatest asset when things are not happening the way you want them to. Hope is the bridge between what is happening now and what you expect in the future. It is an optimistic state of mind that says, *“Lord am expecting something positive to happen”*. You can lose anything in life but never allow anyone to steal your hope. The Bible says hope should

always remain. **Protect your hope; it is a seed of great harvest.**

Confessions: I am hopeful that my life will change for the better.

I am expectant of something beautiful.

Hope is a state of mind that is expectant.

Quote: "HOPE IS YOUR SEED OF GREAT LIFE, DON'T THROW IT AWAY."

Day 2. Hope in a hopeless situation

Key Text: Psalm 42:5

“Why are you [a]cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him [b] For the help of His countenance.”

Overview: It is easier to have hope when everything is working so well. When life is treating you well, your car is paid for, there is a promising tender or business coming your way and maybe your family is doing well. God commands us never to lose hope in all circumstances. Hope is the main sponsor of your dreams and you need it the most when things are not going well.

Key Thought: When there is no bread on the table, your health is depreciating and there is no peace in your heart, or you are broken, that is the time to pull up your hope and display it in the midst of trouble. Hope is refusing to allow the negative circumstances in your life to speak to you or disqualify you. It is the ability to acknowledge that things are not well but they shall be well. Hope is not the negation of reality but the

acknowledgement that in that reality God has ways you don't know that he can employ to change your situation.

Confessions: I am hopeful that what I am going through will change.

My circumstances will change for the better. I refuse negative thoughts to control me

Quote: "HOPE IS NOT NEGATION OF REALITY BUT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR REALITY."

Day 3. Hope and Faith

Key Text: Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen.”

Overview: Faith requires hope to function. As a matter of fact, we cannot move in faith unless we have hope. It is not wrong for you to experience weak faith and sometimes to feel like you have no faith, but you should never reach a place where you have completely lost hope. If your hope weakens, observe how people with issues and problems are still living and seemingly happy, that is hope.

Key thought: Without hope there is no faith. When we lose hope, we die. Sometimes the best way of demonstrating faith is to stay hopeful. Hope provides the substance that faith can turn into a reality. Hope speaks to the possibility of the incident happening and faith turns that possibility into reality. God needs you to stay hopeful in order for your faith to work for you.

Quote: "FAITH COMMITS TO THE NOW, HOPE COMMITS TO THE POSSIBILITY EVEN IF IT'S NOT NOW."

Day 4. Hope for healing

Key Text: Exodus 15:26

“...For I *am* the LORD who heals you.”

Overview: Healing comes with hope. The strength of every hope is the promise, and the capability and reliability of he who promised. In real life we hope for things from people who are capable of fulfilling their word. In your life there are people you know or at least make an effort to stand by their word or promise. At the same time there are those who never fulfil what they say or promise. When we are sick, we need to remember God's promise about healing for those of us who trust in him.

Key Thought: Since Jesus Christ promised healing of our flesh and our broken hearts, you have the right to be hopeful that God will restore your body and heal your heart. In case you are broken and hopeless, God has promised peace to the broken hearted. You cannot allow that divorce, loss of a loved one, a failed relationship to keep you sick. Jesus is well able; he has proven his

capability to heal. Your role is to remain hopeful, that one day, even if not today, God will heal me. Speak it and believe it.

Quote: "HOPE FOR HEALING CREATES FAITH FOR HEALING."

Confession: Jesus is able to heal me; I am hopeful that God will raise me up from this disease or this emotional pain. You know what this confession has just done; it turns your mind into a state of optimism that allows faith to flow and God to act on your behalf.

Day 5. Hope and Confession

Key Text: Psalm 116:10

"I believed, therefore I spoke"

Overview: Hope feeds on positive confession while hopelessness feeds and thrives on negative confession. When you interact a lot with people who are negative and speak negativity, your hope tank will decrease. Negativity creates hopelessness. Positive confession on the other hand feeds and strengthens hope.

Key Thought: What if I told you that the reason why we become hopeless most of the time is because we listened to the wrong people or entertained negative thoughts? Negative and pessimistic people know how to drain energy from people leaving them with no trace of expectation for a better tomorrow.

Quote: "YOU BUILD HOPE BY POSITIVE CONFESSION."

"Just as faith operates by hope, hope operates by confession. You build your hope tank by speaking

positive words to yourself especially God's word. God's word will then fight negative thinking.

Day 6.Hope and shame

Key Text: Romans 10:11

“For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Overview: Shame is a killer of hope. How many of you remember that as kids we all had dreams? Big dreams. We talked openly about them and were excited to pursue them. Each one of us was very proud of their dreams that we thought about them daily.

Key point: As we grew up, some of us made mistakes and those mistakes brought about shame. The sting of shame cripples us into believing the lie that we are not worth hoping for any good in our lives. In case you are feeling shame, it's time to shake it off and stop believing its lie. You deserve a better life than your mistakes and you can overcome that shame. Begin by being positive and entertaining the thought that as much as it's been bad it will become better.

Confession: My shame is not my end; God holds my future.

Shame is going to lower your self-confidence but believe God that you can rise again and slowly build your confidence in him.

Prayer: Lord Deliver me from my shame and cause your face to shine on me. Let me forget the days of my shame and see the years of your goodness.

Day 7: Hope for Life

Key Text: Proverbs 13:12

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.”

Overview: If you have been alive for sometimes you know that, in life there are ups and downs. The lowest low is when you lose your very own life. But life as it is, irrespective of who you are, will one day take you into a corner where you seem to be losing your very life and the only thing that can save you is hope.

Key Thought: Hope is the button you press to reset your life. When the cars are gone, the houses are gone, the marriage is gone, and sometimes the best thing to pursue is your life. The route to pursuing your life is hope, a steady optimistic expectation that things might be gone but at the right time God will restore them. The spirit of hope says, I am down but I am hopeful that God will open other doors for me.

Quote: "A HOPEFUL LIFE CAN BREED CHANGE. THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU LOST IN LIFE IS TO GET YOUR LIFE BACK, BECAUSE THE SAME LIFE IS CAPABLE OF GETTING MORE THAN WHAT YOU LOST."

2. PERSONAL VISION

DAY 1: WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

Vision is the capacity to project yourself in to the future. Your personal vision is the road map that you will use to navigate through life to arrive at the destination you believe is ideal for you. A good personal vision describes your end, your aspirations, your focus and the things you wish to achieve.

REFLECTIONS

1. Who do you want to become?
2. Where are you going?
3. Where do you want to see yourself in the next 5 or 10 years?
4. What do you want achieve?

Key Thought: Successful people have a tendency of defining their end at the beginning. They set out the why of their journey before they embark on the journey. If you can define your destination (vision) then you can find the pathway towards it.

Quote: "GOD SPECIALISES IN SPONSORING VISIONS. HE GIVES US THE DESIRES OF OUR HEARTS. WHEN WE STOP DREAMING GOD HAS NO WORK TO DO."

Activity: Answer the above questions on reflections and add to your answers, how you will achieve all your outcome and the amount of time you need to fulfil each.

DAY 2. PERSONAL VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

The power of a personal vision lies in its ability to become the embodiment of all your aspirations. When you critically evaluate your personal vision, it should comprise of your aspirations.

However, each sphere of your aspirations should be balanced with a technical ability that introduces the capacity to implement such aspirations. If such ability is absent a thorough process through which such skills will be outsourced to sponsor your personal vision should be detailed.

Key Thought: Every personal vision requires sacrifices. It is easier to sacrifice for the things that you love and are passionate about.

REFLECTIONS

1. Which industry or field represents most of your aspirations?
2. If wishes were horses, what will you do for your life?
3. Now that wishes are not horses, what can you do with your life?

Quote: "IF GOD LAYS IT IN YOUR HEART, THEN YOU CAN PURSUE IT. GOD GIVES TREASURE, OUR DUTY IS TO FOLLOW OUR ASPIRATIONS TO FIND OUT THE TREASURE WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN."

Day 3: PERSONAL VISION AND VALUES

Key Text: Proverbs 14:12

“There is a way that seems right in man’s eyes but at the end it leads to destruction.”

Overview: The journey to your destination in life is long and challenging. To successfully achieve the things you want in life, you need to set out special tools that serve as guidelines to keep you in track during your journey.

Your values are those special tools which you cannot afford to compromise in your journey. True personal values separate you and your work from the rest.

Key Thought: The first challenge in every personal vision starts with the temptation to ignore, change or compromise the things that define you. Giving in to this temptation leads to failure and sticking to your core values, delays gratification, but has long lasting rewards.

REFLECTIONS

1. List four things that you deem important and should never be compromised?
2. The highest value in life is the fear of God? How are you cultivating this value in your life?

DAY 4: PERSONAL VISION AND GOD

Key Text: Jeremiah 29:13

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Overview: The good part about being a child of God is coming to the recognition that he has already set up a plan for you. This is not just a plan, it is a vision to ensure you become great and you spend your days on earth celebrating the goodness of God.

When you recognize this reality, you change your priorities to make God your number one priority because you are aware that everything that you need is in him. The greatest impact of our knowledge of the saviour should help us to be consciously aware that God has great plans for us.

Key thought: Your best Personal Vision is the one that agrees with the great plan that God has for you. The only way to tell whether your personal vision is aligned to the will of God for your life, is to check whether that personal vision will make you godlier and better with time.

Prayer point: Ask God to help you to have a Personal vision that will glorify him while making you the best you can ever be.

Day 5: PERSONAL VISION AND HARD WORK

Key Text: 2 Corinthians 9:10

“Now^[a] may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food,^[b] supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,”

Overview: The role of God in your life is to give you a seed. We can call this seed potential. A vision is a great idea about your future or the embodiment of your greatness. God gives us what we cannot give to ourselves or get from our friends.

Our role is then to do the hard work of tilling the ground, planting the seed, watering it, weeding and eventually harvesting it. Most of us like the joy that comes with harvesting or selling the harvest but we don't like the hard work of weeding.

Key Thought: Every Personal vision is going to require hard work. God blesses our work, not our vision and our blessed work makes it easier for us to achieve our personal vision.

Quote: "HE WHO DOES NOT WORK SHOULD NOT EAT. IF YOU HATE HARD WORK DO NOT HAVE A BIG PERSONAL VISION."

DAY 6: PERSONAL VISION AND INSPIRATION

Key Text: Hebrews 12:2

“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,”

Overview: One of the things that inspired Jesus and made it easier for him to undergo the shame of the cross was the joy and the promise that came with doing so.

You need a personal vision that makes suffering for the vision easy and palatable. Your personal vision should be big enough to make it easier for you to belittle obstacles between you and your destination.

Key Thought: A personal vision is good if it inspires you to keep pushing despite challenges. A good personal vision is like fuel. The joys of arriving always exceed the pain of the struggle on the way.

Quote: “A PERSONAL VISION IS TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHAT A MAP IS TO A LOST CAPTAIN IN THE SEA.”

DAY 7: STAY IN YOUR LANE

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 12:11

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

Overview: One of the greatest destructions to personal success is comparing yourself with others who are doing something else. If you are going to be influential and the best, you need to keep to the personal vision that God has given you.

Each one of us is running their own race. The good news about this race is that you are competing against God’s plan for your life not against fellow human beings. So stay in your lane and do your best.

Key Thought: Each one of us has something we can offer. We all have things we can do very well. Places where we can be celebrated but when we compare ourselves with others we lose ourselves. Have the courage to be yourself rather than to be a copycat .You are an original, and your best can only be seen and celebrated if you stay in your lane.

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to help you accept and love yourself enough to bring the best out of you.

Quote: “LIFE IS EASIER WHEN YOU ARE YOURSELF.”

Essential steps after Salvation

Being born again is instant. It happens to you the moment you call on the name of the Lord and you pray the sinners Prayer.

In case you are not yet saved, pray this prayer out loud,

“Dear God in Heaven. Today I invite you into my life as Lord and king of my heart. Lord Jesus, I choose to believe that you died on the cross for me. I ask you today to forgive me of all my sins and make me your child. I believe with my heart and confess with my mouth that you are Lord. Thank you for saving me.”

If you have prayed this prayer, you are saved! The following steps are important for your growth.

1. Find a church that teaches the Bible.
2. Tell anyone you know who is saved to help you grow your faith.
3. Start reading the Bible beginning with the book of Romans and John.
4. Start practicing prayer at any time of the day. Mornings and evenings are easy.

5. In case it is not easy to find a Bible believing church where you are, join Hill View Church online and register as a virtual partner. We will contact you.

6. Watch our services on our YouTube Channel and Facebook page at Hill View Church.

7. Follow me on Instagram, YouTube, Facebook @Oj Mathiba.

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