

Campus: Cheltenham  
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**HOPE SERIES (1)**

**DWELLING IN HOPE**

**Message Notes**

1 Corinthians 13:13 – “and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Definition: hope - "*as an expectation of something desired*".

We desire something and therefore we hope for it. We all have desires that we hope for.

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How do we reconcile when a desire does not come to pass and may never come to pass, where there is no guarantee?

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Idolatry is where having what we want is more important than our relationship with God.

Key Text: Romans 15:13

There are two types of hope that Bible speaks of:

- **Sustaining hope** – is hope that sustains you through the everyday. You don't know how you are going to get through (it could be that exam you're about to sit, a hard time you're going through, death of a loved one). You hold onto God to sustain you. This hope is focused on the here and now. This hope is where our personal relationship with God is developed.

*Ps 119:147 – I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.*

- **Eternal hope** – is hope that is joyful and confident of our eternal salvation. It is beyond our small lives, it is bigger than ourselves. It's beyond this life, it looks into the future. This is the hope we have when our loved ones die and we know we will be reunited one day. This hope knows ultimately there is a happy ending, but it's not necessarily guaranteed in this life.

*1 Cor 15:17-19 – And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.*

God's hope in this life is about redemption, reconciliation and transformation. Transformation that sees us becoming more like His Son.

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Jesus saw a picture of the future.

**Revelations 21:1-4**

A new earth and heaven is coming and it promises us no mourning, crying and pain. This earth does not promise that. This earth is groaning and is in birth pains for the one to come.

We have to choose as we experience disappointments whether we are going to be:

- Closed or open to God
- Bitter or better
- Hopeless or hopeful
- Resigned or accepting
- Hostile or hospitable

### **Shunnamite Story**

Miraculous story. Found in 2 King 4. The woman is known as the Shunnamite woman as she lived in Shunem.

Man of God = Elisha, prophet who was the voice of God sent to prophecy to the Northern Kingdom.

Northern Kingdom = Also known as Israel & Ephraim. 224-year period, 945-721BC, 19 rulers and all were evil.

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### **Welcoming God Into Your Heart**

The woman identified Elisha as a holy man. Despite her disappointment, she wasn't hostile towards God's messenger. She was hospitable and open to him.

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The Holy Spirit is our personal counselor, advocate, strengthener and stand by. Living with hope starts with welcoming Him in. And as we do we get to know Him.

*Romans 5:5 – And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has give us.*

## **Making Room For God**

The Shunammite woman was desperate to have God's presence. Welcoming him wasn't enough, she wanted to make room for Him. She stretched herself despite her years of disappointment, to provide a place where Elisha could rest.

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When God comes and lives in your house, it's about a deeper relationship, it's about journeying together and about letting Him into areas that hurt. God is not oblivious to our pain. God honors our pain; he doesn't sweep it under the carpet.

*Matt 5:4 - "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*

Author Henri Nouwen says:

*"Ultimately mourning means facing what wounds us in the presence of One who can heal."*

When we make room for God His presence can begin to change everything.

*Isaiah 40:31 – but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

## **Receiving From God**

The Shunnamite didn't desire God's presence for what she could get. Her focus was on serving God and being in His presence.

She had learned to be grateful for the good things that were in her life and not simply focus on what she didn't have.

*Phil 4:12 – "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret to being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."*

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Jeremiah 29:11 – *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

## **CONCLUSION**

Martin Luther King says:

*"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."*

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4. If your location services are on: the message notes will show automatically. If not: search '**Bayside Church AU**'
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