

Hope for the New Year

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 3rd, 2021

The New Year is a good time to re-evaluate our Priorities in order to face the coming year with a sense of renewed Purpose and Peace. Unfortunately, the baggage of the past can easily crowd out our hope for the future! Disappointment is one of Satan's most effective tools.

The Dictionary Definition of Disappoint is: *"Failure to fulfil hope/expectations."*

The Hebrew word (Old Testament) is qādam' and means: *to prevent.* (Ps. 17:13)

The Dictionary Definition of Hope is: *An Expectation/desire for a certain thing to happen.*

The word "Hope" is found 129 times in our Bibles!

O.T. (tiqwâ) expectation, what I long for! N.T. (elpis') anticipation, expectation, confidence!

The Devil tries to use Disappointment to:

1. Destroy our Hope. Ruth 1 Pr 13:12 *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick:"*

A. Destruction is Satan's nature! John 10:10 *"The thief comes ... to steal, kill, and destroy"*

1) Sadly, most end up following him. Mt 7:13 *"Enter at the strait gate: (stenos: cluttered) for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, (apō'leia) and many there be which go in"*

2) While he's currently limited (2 Thes.2:7), Eventually he'll be unleashed. (Rev 9; 12)

Rev. 9:10 *"they had a king over them,... the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name (is) Apolly'on" (Destroyer)*

5th Trumpet judgment = 5 months of torment!

2. Distance us from God.

A. In our disappointment, we tend to blame God! Ruth 1:13 *"the LORD is gone out against me."*

Pr 19:3 *"The foolishness of man perverteth his way: (sālap' derek: to wrench /twist out of the way) and his heart frets against the LORD." (zā' ap': to become peevish {irritated} or angry)*

B. This "distancing" is at the very heart of Sin. (See Isaiah 59)

1) The root word for "Sin" (in both the OT and NT):

Hebrew (hāṭā') to miss, lead astray, forfeit

Greek (hamartano) to miss the mark (and so forfeit the prize)

C. The further we drift from God, the more vulnerable we are to Satan! (1 Jn 1:6,7; 4:4)

3. Disillusion (Deceive) us.

When Naomi arrived back home (1:19-20) *"all the city was moved... Is this Naomi? (Pleasant) ...call me not Naomi, call me Mara: (Bitter) for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me."*

A. Disillusionment produces bitterness. Ruth 1:20 *"call me Mara:"* (Bitter)

1) Bitterness is related to rebellion. 1 Sam 15:23 *"rebellion (meri) is as the sin of witchcraft"*

The root word for meri is Mara! (Bitter)

2) Bitterness is infectious! (Heb. 12:15) *"springing up and thereby many be defiled."*

B. Disillusionment produces blindness! 2 Cor 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26

1) It distorts our thinking! Vs 21 *"I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?"*

Conclusion: 2020 has been filled with disappointment deception, doubt, disillusionment, division, And destruction!

While Satan seeks to use disappointments to distance us from God, (embittering us) God seeks to use them to draw us to Him; Where “Hope” (tiqwâ) can be restored.

Tiqwâ comes from qāwâ’ which literally means: “To bind together” (See Jer. 29:11-13)

This is at the very heart of Worship!

Worship (proskyne’ō) comes from: Pros: near or toward (focus) and kuon: to kiss, adore

Your focus changes when you love someone!

Phil. 4:6-7 *“Be careful (Merimna’ō: distracted) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer*

(proseuchē; from Pros: toward and euchomai: to worship)

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, (from eiro: to join) which passeth all understanding,

shall keep (phroureō: guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

God Specializes in bringing “Beauty out of Ashes.” (Is. 61:1-3; Lk 4:18-21)

Even in her desperation, Naomi:

- Remembered God’s directions (Ruth 2)
- Received (and recognized) His provision. Ruth 2:20 *“Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness...”*
- Eventually others began to recognize God’s blessings on her. Ruth 4:14-15

Application: Remember “Hope” comes from Qāwâ: to bind together!

Too many people’s “hope” is bound to:

- 1) Science: (WHO; CDC; “experts”) 1 Tim 6:20-21 *“Beware of science falsely so called”*
- 2) Fallible Government leaders: (“Temporary” lockdowns initiated by fiat in March are still in effect 9 months later.) Jer 5:30-31 *“A .. thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?”*
- 3) Media outlets: (Facebook, Google, Twitter, etc) According to Knight Foundation & Gallop: 86% of Americans believe the media are biased. (Garbage in → Garbage out!)

Binding ourselves to (trusting) impotent sources is as foolish as building our houses (hearts) on the shifting sand. (Mt 7:24-27) Instead we should “bind ourselves” to God.

Disappointment is Draining! Isaiah 40:27-31 *“Why sayest thou, ... My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord (qāwâ’: bind together) shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. “*

Who will you “Bind” your hope (faith) to in 2021?

Ps 62:5-6 *“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation (tiqwâ: hope) is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; (miṣgāb’: refuge) I shall not be moved.” (môt: waver)*