

# WINNING IN HOPE

2-19-2017

## **Romans 4:13 NIV**

13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

## **Romans 4:17-21 NIV**

17 As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

## **1. In Hope We Believe**

### **Romans 4:18 NIV**

18 Against all hope, Abraham **in hope believed...**

### **Romans 4:18 NLT**

18 Even when there was **no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing** that he would become the father of many nations.

## **2. In Hope We Ignore Facts**

### **Romans 4:19 NIV**

19 Without weakening in his faith, he **faced the fact** that **his body was** as good as **dead**—since he was about a hundred years old—and that **Sarah's womb was also dead.**

## 2 Things Abraham Ignored

1. Deadness Of His Body (Our Ability)
2. Deadness Of Sarah's Womb (External Circumstances)

### 3. In Hope We Are Strengthened

#### Romans 4:20 NLT

<sup>20</sup> Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, **his faith grew stronger,**

#### 2 Chronicles 32:7-8 NKJV

<sup>7</sup> "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that *is* with him; for *there are* more with us than with him. <sup>8</sup> With him *is* an arm of flesh; but with us *is* the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were **strengthened by the words** of Hezekiah king of Judah.

#### Job 4:4 NKJV

**Your words** have upheld him who was stumbling,  
And you have **strengthened** the feeble knees;

#### Job 16:5 NKJV

*But* I would strengthen you with my mouth,  
And the comfort of my lips would relieve *your grief*

#### Psalms 119:28 NKJV

<sup>28</sup> My soul melts from heaviness; **Strengthen me according to Your word.**

#### Luke 22:31-32 NKJV

<sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, **strengthen your brethren.**"

#### Luke 22:42-43 NKJV

<sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, **strengthening Him.**

#### Acts 15:32 NKJV

<sup>32</sup> Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and **strengthened the brethren with many words.**

#### Psalms 119:49 NKJV

<sup>49</sup> Remember **the word** to Your servant, Upon which You have **caused me to hope.**

#### Psalms 119:81 NKJV

<sup>81</sup> My soul faints for Your salvation, But **I hope in Your word.**

### **Psalm 119:114 NKJV**

You *are* my hiding place and my shield;  
I hope in Your word.

### **Psalm 119:116 NKJV**

Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live;  
And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

### **1 Timothy 4:6 NKJV**

6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

## **4. In Hope We Bring Glory To God**

### **Romans 4:20 NLT**

20 Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.

### **Romans 4:21 NLT**

21 He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

### **ROMANS 4:17-21 MSG**

We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing. When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn't* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"

19-25 Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said.