

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

“How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt. 4a

Thursday, February 2, 2023 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

VIP Silver Saints - Conference Call: (717) 908-1834, 755875# – Dial *6 to Mute

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “How To Live Life The Faith Way” Pt.4a

POINT I

Faith can't happen without hope since **Hebrews 11:1** says, *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* The Greek word for “hope” is “elpis.” It means *to anticipate with pleasure.* You can rejoice in hope. Rejoicing and hope operate in unison. God will be glorified by what happens at the end of the storm.

Romans 8:37 states, *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”* There's something to rejoice about! You are not just a conqueror; you are more than a conqueror because of what God has done for you in Christ Jesus!

QUESTION

1. How does rejoicing and hope operate in unison?

POINT II

You can rejoice in hope even when you are under pressure. When you encounter storms in life, remind yourself of **Romans 5:1-5** states, *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not*

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ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” When Paul wrote, “*maketh not ashamed,*” he meant that when you have hope in your heart, you will never be disgraced.

The only option with hope is victory. Success is the outcome because hope stems from the love of God that has been deposited in your heart by the holy ghost. Faith, hope, and love always work together.

QUESTIONS

1. What should you remind yourself when you’re under pressure and you’re still believing in hope?
2. What does it mean to hope in your heart?

The love of God allowed Paul to think of the other people who were going through the storm with him. He didn’t focus on his own survival. He expressed concern for the other 275 people on the ship that was in the storm in the book of Acts.

He told them to eat so they could garner strength. The motivation of love is what differentiates real and counterfeit faith. Fake faith is all about “*What’s in it for me?*” True faith, which works by love, emphasizes the other person. It asks, “*What can I do for you?*”

QUESTION

1. What the difference between fake faith and real faith?

POINT III

Paul described Abraham, the Father of Faith, as being a man of hope and faith. **Romans 4:17-20**, says, “*(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara’s womb: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*”

The Amplified Classic reads, “[*For Abraham, human reason for*] *hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been promised, So [numberless] shall your descendants be.*” Abraham had hope when all natural or human hope was gone. He hoped in faith. In other words, the Father of Faith looked at his 90-year-old wife, and he knew there was no natural hope that she would bear him a son.

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QUESTION

1. How did Abraham demonstrate that he was a man of hope and faith?

Abraham had hope despite the passing of time. The Lord told Abraham he would become a father of a great multitude 24 years before it came to pass! Have you ever had to wait two and half decades for a Word of the Lord to come to pass? Most people get impatient with a two-week delay in the manifestation of their promises. Never stop believing like Abraham.

If God was able to work with a moon worshipper like Abraham for 24 years to bring his promise to fruition, he will surely work with you as a born-again, spirit filled believer. God is the god of hope folks!

The Lord worked with Abraham for nearly a quarter of a century. God is long-suffering, and his mercy endures forever! God’s been working with some of us much longer than he did with Abraham. Have you ever felt that when you took two steps forward it seems like you went three steps backwards. If you do that for long, you’re not moving forward at all; you’re going backwards! If you had been in God’s place looking at that man, you would have given up hope. But the Lord kept speaking to Abraham; he continued to teach him and reaffirm his covenant with him.

QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had to wait a long time before receiving something you hoped for? Examples! What do most people do when something doesn’t manifest for a long time?
2. Why did it take so long for Abraham to receive the promise?

POINT IV

Look at how the Apostle Paul describes God in **Romans 15:13**, *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* The God of Hope knew how to instill hope into Abraham. When the Lord changed his name from Abram to Abraham (*meaning father of many nations*), he made a sure-fire way for this man of faith to get built up in hope.

Every time Sara would beckon him to his honey-do list, he would hear, Father of Many Nations, would you please take out the garbage? The Word of God was before Abraham’s face on a daily basis, and he was able to have hope even when all-natural hope was gone!

QUESTIONS

1. Why is God described as the God of all hope?
2. How did God instill in Abraham hope?

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Another thing about hope is hope will draw people together, in **John 5:1-4**, we read about a place that gave people hope; many were assembled there:

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. 3 In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4 For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

They were all there because of hope. They hoped that would be healed. But they first had to have hope that they would be the first one in!

QUESTION

1. Why did all these people gather in one place?

The passage continues to state, *“5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? 7 The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. 8 Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. 9 And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.”*

This man got what he hoped for, but it wasn't the way he thought he was going to receive it. Sometimes you have to take the limits off God. You may not receive what you hope for the way and manner, you believe you are going to receive. Let God be God! The man didn't say hey, I need to go into the water before I can be healed after Jesus said rise, take up thy bed, and walk. Faith in those words brought substance to what he hoped for.

QUESTION

1. Why is it important to let God be God when it comes to hoping for something? Give examples!

POINT V

Hope brought thousands of people to this pool daily. Hope is the precursor of faith. If you don't have hope, you can't have faith. People had hope of healing at the Pool of Bethesda because they had heard about the healings that took place when the angel troubled the water.

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What you hear will affect your hope, which in turn, affects your faith. If all you ever hear is what is broadcast or posted on CNN, FOX News, MSNBC, Facebook, Twitter, your hope will start to fade. It's imperative to hear the Word of God so that you can maintain your hope. The Word gives you hope for a miracle, hope for the blessing, and hope for the future.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is hope a precursor of faith?
2. What will negatively affect your hope? What will positively affect your hope?
3. What will be the results of the negative effects and the positive effects?

Why did Jesus heal only one man at the pool that day? We know in **Acts 10:38** the bible states, *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”* You might think that Jesus should have healed everyone that day.

Maybe he did minister to everyone, but only one person was in faith to receive. The Lord gets people and situations ready to receive by faith. That's one of the reason's you are in this life group. I know that whatever Jesus did, he did according to the Fathers will, because miracles happen when you are in obedience to the Father. But you can't have hope without faith, and you can't have faith without hope.

QUESTIONS

1. Why didn't Jesus heal everyone that day?
2. What is the Lord always endeavoring to do?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian, Carmelo and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

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Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join Generation 6:20 Youth Ministry for Friday Night Live, **Friday, February 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** The cost of admission is \$1.00 for more information see Minister Julie Francis.
2. Join us for Holy Communion, **Sunday, February 5, 2022 at 10:00 am.** If you are joining us online prepare your communion elements in advance so that we can break bread together.

Join “Read Along with Word of Faith” for its’ upcoming Small Talks Series on the following subjects.

- a. What does the Bible Say about Prayer and Praise with Evangelist Sharon L. Walker – **Tuesday, February 7th at 7:30 p.m.**
- b. The Power of God's Word to Enhance Your Mental Health with Dr. Dionne Simmonds – **Tuesday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m.**
- c. The Word of God and Money with Dr. Tamara Lang – **Tuesday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m.**

The meetings will be held on ZOOM and Facebook. Meeting ID is **Meeting ID: 844 8529 1794**
Passcode: 202540. Don’t miss out!

3. Single with Purpose is having “Karaoke Night”- Psalm 98:1 says (KJV), *“O sing unto the LORD a new song; For he hath done marvellous things..”*

How many people can testify that God had been and still is so good to us? Come out and let's get the word and then engage in making a joyful noise unto the Lord. **February 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Word of Faith.** For more information see Minister Bachelor or email singlewithpurpose2019@gmail.com

4. Join us for Baby Dedication & Water Baptism on **Sunday, February 12th**
 - Baby Dedication – 10:00 am at Word of Faith
 - Water Baptism – 2:00 p.m. Brewers Beach

To register call the church office at (340) 774-8617 or see Minister Abbott.

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5. The SWAT Team led 24 people to the Lord on **Saturday, January 28th**. Join the SWAT Team for their next SWAT Outing, Saturday, February 11th and 25th at 11:00 am. For more information contact Minister Francis.
6. Join Kid’s World VI for an Ice Cream Social – **Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 10:00 am**. Yummy Vanilla, Strawberry and chocolate Ice cream with different toppings. You make it your way! FYI: FOR KIDS ONLY! For more information see Minister Abbott.
7. Join us for Early Morning Prayer, **Monday- Friday from 6:00 am - 7:00 am** and Saturday’s at 10:00 am. Join us on the Miracle Line on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s at 11:00 am by conference call, Facebook, YouTube and the Word of Faith Website. The call-in number for the Early Morning Prayer and the Miracle Line is (717) 908-1834, access code 755875#.
8. Then Join us for Noon Day Prayer, with Evangelist Sharon Walker. Join us for 1-hour to pray. This is an In-person Prayer Service at Word of Faith.
9. Monetary donations are being accepted to be a blessing to those truly in need. When making your donation to please write **“Gift for WOFICC CARES.”** **WOFICC CARES** about our church family! **WOFICC CARES** about our community! **WOFICC CARES** about the Islands of the Caribbean!

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
