

Chapter 1

Hope-The Compass of our Destiny

We are all in the process of searching—searching for the things that are going to make us happy, or make us rich, or make us holy. Our souls and our spirits are seeking to discover our true purpose, the one we were created for. For some of us, it is a journey that has been easy. For myself, I have spent many years aimlessly wondering through life, trying as hard as I could to be happy in whatever I tried to do, but only in the last few years really understood my purpose and my assignment.

The revelation and knowledge that God has shown me for my life and my calling has led me to write this book and teach this bible study. As He has revealed these principles to me through His word and teachings, I found that these are principles that can be used by the body of Christ for each of us to build our kingdom for God, and manage it and pass it on for His glory.

In the 12 years that I have been working as a business consultant, I have assisted many Christian businessmen and women in expanding or starting a business. I have observed these principles put into action by families that are building multi-million dollar kingdoms here on earth, in the second, third, and fourth generation. This has convinced me that not only does God speak about kingdoms, but He is actively building them here on earth through Christian families using biblical principles.

God has created each one of us for a purpose and for his pleasure. In Jeremiah 1:5, God tells us that *“before I formed you in the womb I knew and approved of you (as my chosen instrument), and before you were born I separated and set you apart, consecrating you; and I appointed you . . .”* **The first step in building your kingdom to greater levels is understanding the purpose for which you were created.**

Are you actively involved in seeking God in your search, or are you just out there aimlessly wandering around, tossing up mud and seeing what sticks? God is actively wants and needs to be involved in your process and your decisions!

In Hosea 2:14-15 we see God’s plan of transferring hope to His people. *“Therefore, behold, I will allure her (Israel) and bring her into the wilderness, and I will speak tenderly to her heart. There I will give her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor (troubling) to be for her a door of hope and expectation. And she shall sing there and respond as in the days of her youth and as at the time when she came up out of the land of Egypt.”*

God allures us, brings us to a quiet place, changes our trouble to hope, and we respond with expectation and excitement! This word for hope in the Bible is *tiqvah*, and Strong’s definition means an expectation; something yearned for and anticipated eagerly, something for which one waits.

God is actively involved in stirring up hope and expectation through dreams, visions, and desires. In Psalm 37:4 it states, “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the

desires and secret petitions of your heart.” What a delight for God, that as we commune more with Him, He is able to speak into our hearts and put more of His dreams and desires there for us! Also, as we hear more word and see more of His power and purpose, our carnal dreams and desires are replaced by His dreams and desires, and they become our dreams and desires.

Love follows hope-and hope can also be described as desire. Desire is the primer for the pump and determines the direction of the flow. We all make conscious decisions where our desires take us and what actions we choose to take. We can also choose to live without desire.

In Proverbs 13:12 it states that “Hope deferred makes the heart sick: but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.” For many years I lived without hope, and my heart really was sick. I suffered from terrible depression, and it affected my work and my relationships with the people around me. I could only “check into life” for one to two days at a time, and then I just checked back out again. I had some fairly traumatic losses early in my youth that devastated me, and I had lost my marriage, and lost my dreams, and I really had no hope.

One day I was lying in bed, sick, and God began to speak to me about hope. I had to look up scriptures, copy them and put them in frames all over my bedroom, and stand in front of them and speak them every day. The more I said them, the more I believed the promises that God had placed inside of them for my life, and the more my mind was healed of the terrible depression that I had suffered for years.

There are four steps to restoration of your hope from the Lord:

1. Get alone with God.
2. Get a fresh word from God.
3. Dare to believe that word.
4. Speak that word until it manifests in your life.

True hope has to be based on the word of God. When you have God’s promise from His word and you walk in His presence, you cannot miss the destiny and calling that God has on your life.

This study will use the story of Esther to develop the messages and information that will guide you through Part 1: Discovering Your Kingdom. In this story is a dramatic description of the power of hope and expectation, and how Esther used this to move from a position as her uncle’s charge after the death of her parents, to being Queen of the land.

We don’t see hope even being mentioned here, and in fact, there is no mention of God here, either, except in some cryptic script in five key places. But the guiding hand of the Lord is evident, as the results that we see could have only happened through Esther’s hope and expectation as provided through the Lord’s provision.

The story doesn’t tell us exactly how the virgins were gathered up, but I don’t think they were going house to house and dragging them by their hair! No, it probably was the largest beauty contest that the world has ever seen—with many beautiful contestants vying jealously to be chosen. The king had appointed his officers to pick them out, and you can also know that these

officers were vying for favor with the king as well! They were looking for a certain look, a certain style, that would catch the king's attention—someone who looked pleasing and happy, full of expectation!

I could imagine that Esther had that look in her eye when she was chosen. Probably if the contest would be held today, there would be a lot less women to choose from—the other option if you weren't chosen was to live out the rest of your lives in the king's harem, and that really doesn't sound like much fun to me! For Esther, in her station, this was a much better position than she had before, and she was willing to believe in hope and expectation to take her all the way.

In Romans 4:12 it talks about Abraham, and it says in the Amplified Version “human reason for hope being gone, he hoped in faith,” or in the King James Version “who against hope, believed in hope.” How many times is human reason for hope gone in our lives, and how do we react? **Here we find that Abraham used his hope as a battering ram against his own human reason for lack of hope!** That is a powerful force that we can use when we are trying to reason our way through a problem, instead of standing in faith and hoping with expectation. Just expect God to perform what we can't!

Esther had some really stiff competition, and I am sure she had many moments of self-doubt. She wasn't even of the right religious background to qualify her for the position that she was seeking. But her “hope against hope” was a sign of her faith in God, and it is faith that moves the hand of God, and gives us favor.

After she was chosen for the contest, she had a certain presence about her that immediately caught the eye of Haggai, and she was given the best apartment in the harem, as well as the items needed for her purification. When we are walking in the hope and expectation of the Lord, the favor of the Lord is upon us, and God's plan for our destiny gives us the best room and everything we need to accomplish our purpose and achieve our destiny.

And then, what of the fateful day of reckoning, when she goes into the King for the first, and perhaps the only time? Esther has the confidence to take only what Haggai tells her to. We don't know what that is, either, but Esther is planning her moment with hopeful expectation, taking counsel from trusted advisors. We should do the same in our moment of decision.

Can you imagine the scene? There she goes, to meet with a guy who has been meeting with virgins every day for the last three years. Now how are you going to get his attention? But on that day, Esther had favor with everyone who saw her, even the king.

Esther had to sustain hope and expectation in the most adverse, backbiting, jealousy-driven, obsessive, power-hungry contest that could have been devised on earth. Our reality shows of today end in about 12 episodes. This contest went on daily for years! The only way that Esther could have made it to the final day of victory for God and for her was to stay in constant communion with God, understand her purpose and calling, and maintain a consistent attitude of hope and expectation.

What are you facing that looks hard, and maybe almost impossible? Let God work on you, spend time with Him and let Him put His dreams and desires in you, and the ones that aren't of Him will drop away. He will turn your heart, your path, and your purpose to fulfill His plan of true happiness, peace, and prosperity in your life.

Questions for Meditation

- a. What was your dream as a child?

- b. A teenager?

- c. An adult?

- d. What prophecies did you receive? What prophecies have come true in your life?

- e. What words did God speak to you?

- f. How did you know it was a God dream?

- g. Did the devil try to steal your hope? How did he try to do it?

Prayer of Hope

Dear Holy Father, please fill me with your hope. Flood my heart and soul with joyful anticipation. I give all carnal dreams and desires to you, and I trade them for your dreams and desires. Stir up in me those dreams you placed in my heart before I was even born. Where my hope has died, resurrect and rekindle my dreams and expectations. Thank you for your favor as I walk out my dreams and goals for Your glory and for Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scriptures for Meditation

And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in thee.

Psalms 39:7

Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

Psalms 119:116

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12

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.

Romans 4:18

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:4

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galations 6:9-10