



Unpacking Hope

Part 2: How does a CHURCH become a place of HOPE?

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CHURCH

1. Building for public, especially, Christian worship.
 2. The company of all Christians regarded as a spiritual body.
 - The Bible is clear that contrary to popular opinion, the church is not an institution, nor is it a building that we can go to, but in fact we ourselves (you and I) are the church. **1 Corinthians 3:9, 11, 16**
 - God builds His church, and once we are saved, God places each one of us as living bricks into the church He is building on the foundation of Christ, and the teaching of the apostles. **Ephesians 2:12-13, 19-21**
 - The purpose of the church is to be the body of Christ in the world. God desires to work in the world through us. **2 Corinthians 3:2**
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How do we become conduits of **Hope** in our homes, on our jobs, in our branch of Zion (HOHM), in middle Georgia, and throughout the world?

HOPE

1. The longing or desire for something accompanied by the belief in the possibility of its occurrence.
2. The opposite of Hopelessness.

People are hopeless because they are not viewing their natural circumstances through a spiritual lens; they are fighting the wrong enemy with the wrong weapons.

8 Ways To Become A Church/Conduit Of Hope

1) Offering Salvation To Others

We always want to be **witnesses** for Christ so that souls will be saved.

Become **comfortable** asking people if they have ever accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior.

Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-10

2) Feeding People The Word Of God Through Bible Based Preaching / Teaching / Singing

The Word ushers those who **digest** it into a greater awareness of who God is, and from that awareness grows a closer, deeper relationship with God. When you open the Word, read the Word, hear the Word, and sing the Word, you are **fueling** your spiritual gas tank and **strengthening** your spiritual muscles. **John 1:1; Romans 10:13-15; Mark 16:15; Ephesians 6:17**

3) Teaching Who And How To Fight

People are **hopeless** because they feel that day in and day out, they are fighting a **losing** battle. It is our job to enlighten people to the reality that, as Christians, they must view their **natural** circumstances through a **spiritual** lens. They are fighting the wrong enemy with the wrong weapons. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-16**

THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON

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4) **Faith**

Those that **hope**, do so because they have **faith**. You must have faith to strengthen you to trust that there is something better coming even if you don't see it right now. **Hebrews 11:1; Jeremiah 17:7**

5) **Prayer**

Prayer is the Christian's **means** of communicating with God. Prayer is the Christian's **mode** of warfare. Prayer is the Christian's **method** of laying concerns, fears, and worries on the altar before God. Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. **James 5:13-16; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

6) **Testifying**

What you went through was designed to grow you and your neighbor, too. What you may be ashamed to tell, is the exact story that can **ignite hope** in a **depressed heart**. Your past *Valleys* that God turned into *Victories* were **orchestrated** to become **testimonies**. **Revelation 12:7-11; Psalm 107:1-2**

7) **Displaying The Love Of Christ To ALL People**

Our number one mandate as Christians is to **LOVE**. When it is all said and done, *Godly Love* has the power to deliver, heal, and transform anyone, anything, and any situation that someone may be facing that they deem as hopeless. It is impossible to feel hopeless when you are surrounded by the **Love of God**. **1 John 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13**

8) **Displaying Kindness And Gentleness**

As Christians, we are called to display the characteristic of the Fruit of the Spirit called Gentleness. **Gentleness** is being kind and having a sense of compassion toward others. **Compassion** is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. It is impossible to not have hope if you are connected to a community where gentleness, kindness, and compassion are its **values**. **Acts 2:42-47; Romans 14:1**