

## A BANNNER FOR THE PEOPLES

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Without a doubt the most Christ-centered book in all of the Bible is the book of Isiah. The reason that I say that because it has more references to Christ than any book in the Bible with the exception of the book of Psalms. The interesting thing about the book of Isaiah is that it's also quoted more in the New Testament than any other book from the Old Testament.

References are made from Isaiah with regard to the ministry of John the Baptist. With regard to the ministry of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. His ministry for the Gentiles. He future ministry over the Gentiles. References are made from Isaiah to the sufferings f Christ. To the healing of Christ. To the miracles of Chrsit. And to the anointings of Christ.

References are made Isaiah in the New Testament to the disobedience of Isreal. To the blindness of Isreal. To the hypocrisy of Isreal. And to the salvation of the remnent of Isreal. But of all of the things that we can say about the book of Isaiah the most important thing that we can say is that Isaiah was a prophet of hope. That some how he was given by God the ability to bring hope to a nation that found itself in peril.

Obviously when you read the Old Testament you see Isreal constantly in trouble with her neighbors. And when Isaiah was prophesing it was a time of distress, it was a time of gloom. It was a time of depression. It was a time when Isreal was facing all of the nations around it and one by one they seemed to be attacking it and bringing it into captivity. There was trouble on every hand from all of her neighbors.

Isreal had trouble with Damascus. Isreal had trouble with Babylon. Isreal had trouble with Aseria. Isreal had trouble with Idomaya. Isreal had trouble with Phalestia. Isreal had trouble with Moab. Isreal had trouble with Edem. Isreal had trouble with Tyre. Isreal had trouble with all the nations that were around here. But in the midst of that, Isaiah gave to that nation a sounding, resounding idea of hope.

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And when you come to verse 10 of the chapter that I've just read, he brings up a very interesting statement. He says, in that day. And I get the feeling sometime that we've forgotten that God is not yet had his full day. That the day is coming when that day will be a living reality. When we talk about that day and the prophets that use that word, that day. It becomes an analysis, and becomes a source and a resource for our hope. We can analyze it's meaning and have hope. We can see it's resources and have hope. We can understand it's fundamentals and we can have hope.

Because when the Bible talks about that day, it's talking about it in two tracks. It's talking about the day when national Israel will come into her full glory. Because he is dealing with the world in two ways. On the one hand he's dealing with national Israel. On the other hand he's dealing with the church. When God talks about national Israel, he's talking about a special kind of dispensation.

God called up national Israel to be his witness to all the world. God promised to national Israel that she would have all of the territory from the great river in Egypt to the Euphrates river in the north. God told Israel and predicted that she would be dispersed in a major way three times. Many minor captivities and disprementions but three major dispremention. The one was the Egyptian bondage that we're aware of. The second was the Babylonian captivity that we've read about. The third was the dispersal, dispersion to all of the nations that we have witnessed first hand in contemporary history.

But God also promised national Israel that he would bring her back and restore her to the land of Israel. One of the most Historic events in all of the world has been the restoration of Israel. In 1948 we observed the fact that Israel became a state. Since 1970 I've visited together with Carmelita and many of you Israel, some 16 times. The Lord willing, we'll be going again in a couple of months. But the point is that was a significant thing that God did.

But he also said that Israel would have to have a remnant that would be saved. Now, national Israel is distinct from the church in the Old Testament. We know that there was a church in the Old Testament. And we know that that church was risen when Christ was resurrected. And we know that church is even

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at the right hand of the Father with Jesus Christ around the throne.

But national Isreal is another case. And when you really read Revelation 12 we think that the sun clothed woman that is represented there represents national Isreal. And Isreal will flee for her life from the dragon who is satan. But Isreal will be finally reconciled into the very bride of Jesus Christ when Jesus Christ comes because she will listen to the message of the 144,000 that are represented in that chapter by the manchild. And they will be from all of the 12 tribes of Isreal. They will represent to them and witness to them the testimony of Jesus Christ. And that remnant who accepts that min, ministry will be saved and be apart of the bride of Christ.

Now, when we talk about the bride of Christ we're really talking about 5 distinct companies that come together on that day. When Isaiah talks about that day he's talking about the day that started on the big day of Pentecost. We are apart of that day now as God is bringing into fruition everything that we know to be classified as the last days.

And when we talk about the bride of Christ we're talking about the Old Testament church. We're talking about the New Testament church. We're talking about the 144,000. We're talking about the tribulation martyrs. And we're talking about the remnant of Isreal. And all five of those make up the company of the people of God. And we see that reality coming to pass in Revelation 19 when Christ returns with the armies of heaven that whole thing comes together.

So when Go, Isaiah is talking about, on that day, he's talking about what will be consummated in the life of Isreal. But then more importantly to us individually, he's talking about what will happen to the church. For we have to understand that we are a part of another track. And God is doing a thing that is historic in our midst. It is the outpouring of his spirit in an unprecedented manner.

The Pentecostal movement was not an accident. The charismatic renewal is not an accident. The idea of people coming closer to God in every denomination in every understanding of an institutional church is not an accident. God is bringing his people together to pre, prepare us for that particular day.

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And when the Bible talks about the church, he's talking about a spiritual intety, where there is neither Jew, nor Gentile. There is neither bond nor free. There is neither male nor female. Because we all become one in the sight of God. And the thing that binds us together is the faith that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And when the Bible talks about, that day, it's talking about the consumation and the finalization of the church age. In Matthew 16:18 we know that Christ built her church upon faith.

Upon this rock, upon this understanding, Peter, that you know me to be the Son of God. I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And he gave to that church power, to you and to me, power. In Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and the utter most parts of the world.

And he call that church to service in John 14:12 he says

Verily, Verily, I say unto you, that he that believes on me the works that I do shall he do also. And even greater works than these shall he do because I go to my Father.

And he gave to that church hope. And he told us in John 14

Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. And I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I'm going to come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you might be also.

Now, that is the blessed hope that he's given to us in the church. And when we begin to see this we understand that the vocal point of all of this to happen for national Isreal and for the church that are two distinct bodies working together in contemporary history to come to climax of that day. To have that happen we have to see the central figure. And the central figure is not a human being. The central figure is not a national leader. The central figure comes from the rout of Jesse. And that central fiture is Jesus Christ who has raised up as a banner for the people. And when we talk about a banner we're talking about an insignia. We're talking about a symbol. We're talking about a representation. We;re talking about a point of identity. And the very

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way that we ought to be identifying ourselves. And the very way that we ought to be identifying history is not by what man has done but by what God is doing because this banner is now flying. And soon it's going to be at full mask. And every knee shall bow and tounge shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father.

And the joyous thing about the church is that the best is yet to come. And the power of the Holy Spirit will bring us utimately around the throne. And we'll sing, glory, glory, glory to the Lord of hosts for he is a God foever and forever...amen..amen..and amen....clapping...Wll, Hallelujah... Well, praise the Lord our God...Well, praise the Lord our God...Magnify the Lord our God...Glorify his name...For he is worthy to be praise... Hallelujah..Hallelujah....

In Isaiah, through the telescope of time somehow stood up on thoses Judean hills some 750 years before Christ and looked down through the time when this would be a living reality. And we see the folding of the history right now. The banner has been revealed. The banner has been unfurled. And what's going to happen is that banner continues to fly and as Jesus Christ continues to claim his Lordship is as follows. The nations will all be gathered to him. The rest that he's going to give is going to be a blessed rest. He's going to reclaim the remnant of Isreal. He's oing to gather together the exiled. He's going to assemble the scattered one. He's going to bring a unity to Isreal. He's going to defeat all of Isreal's enemies. And he's going to build a highway of hiliness that goes from Aseria down to Egypt.

And we read about that in prophecy. But more than that he points to us the day when God's going to restore his world just like he had it in the beginning. And when we begin to talk about that day and we begin to see what the Lord is really going to do, I don't know what view you take of that. But if you take the premilinal view it gives to us the understanding that Isaiah was a prophet of hope. And that he brought us the great and the blessed hope because when you understand that you begin to see that we're living in the church age. And we know that the church age will end when there's a rapture of the church because in 1 Thest. 4:16-18

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The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the trump of God. And the angel, and we who are dead will arise first and all of those which remain shall be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

And verse 18 says

Wherefore comfort one another with those words.

Now, you either got to take that at fact value or you've got to do alot of explaining away. Because it's very clear

The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the arch angel and the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. And we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together in the cloud to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord.

And then we join in the marriage supper of the lamb around the table of our God that we see in Revelation 19. While here on earth there's a tribulation period of 7 years when Isreal is brought into line to make known that their God is truly the Jehovah God. At the close of that 7 year period we get on our white horses and we come with Jesus Christ to fight the battle of Armegeidon and all the forces of Satan and evil are defeated at that point in time. And then we sent up the Milenial kingdom. And the wolf will lie down with the lamb. And the leopard will lie down with the goat. And the calf and the yearling and the lion will feed together. And their young will lie down together. And the cows shall eat with the bear. And the lion will eat st raw like an ox. And the infant can play near the den of the cobra and the child can play on the den of the ass. And nothing will harm or destory on my holy mountain because all the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea...clapping...amen..amen.. and amen....Well, Hallelujah....Well, praise the Lord in this place...Magnify the name of the Lord...Halellujah...Halleljuah...Praise him in this place... Blessed be the name of the Lord..

When we loose that blessed hope then I don't know what we've got left. Now, you might want to stay around to try to tinker with this earth and get it better. But I think it's so far out of line that the only thing that's going to save it is what God says to the Apostle Peter when he says, the heavens are going to melt with a fervent heat. And there's going to be a new heaven and a new earth. And there's going to be a new principle.

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There's going to be a new code. There's going to be a new social conduct. There's going to be a new morality. And it's going to be filled with the righteousness of God. And that's the world I look forward to...amena..amen.. and amen....claping..Hallelujah...Hallelujah...Well, prasie the Lord in this place...Hallelujah...

But the interesting thing is that the thing that makes the difference is the spirit of the Lord. When you come back to the first verses in this chapter this banner of the Lord that he's given to the people in Christ is a different kind of a banner. Because what made Jesus Christ what he was makes you and I what he wants us to be. And that's through the spirit of the Lord.

And if you look at that, a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. As you know, Jesus Christ sits on the throne of David. David was the son of Jesse. And so since he sits on the throne of David, as we notice in Isaiah 9 this morning. Since that becomes a reality then they say a shoot will come up from the stump of Jesses. And what is that shoot. It is Jesus Christ.

And from his roots a branch will bear fruit and what fruit does he bear. The spirit of the Lord will rest upon him. The spirit of wisdom and understanding. The spirit of sounsel and power. The spirit of knowledge and fear. And every time the Bible uses fear it has a double meaning. On the one hand there is that sense of terror. There is that sense of fright. That is that worry about judgement. But most of the time it means respect. It's that respect and reverence and awe of God.

And he'll have the spirit of knowledge. And he'll have the spirit of the awe of God. He'll be in the same position where he can be human so he can say, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. He will also say, my God, my God why have you forsaken me. He'll also say, I thirst which makes us to know this branch from Jesse bearing fruit will suffer what we have to suffer. But the spirit of understanding will be upon him and he's going to come and rule with the spirit of justice and the spirit of righteousness and the spirit of faithfulness.

And that spirit of the Lord is what made Jesus Christ different. Sometimes we get theidea that the spirit of God. The Holy Spirit was not present until

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we finally saw him at Pentecost. But as we noticed this morning in the Elohem and in the Adonia, and in the Jehovah God we see the Holy Spirit at work. It was a spirit that moved on the face of the waters and brought the world into existence. It was the spirit that filled the prophets so they could give their prophetic proclamations historically that we saw come to pass.

It was the spirit that really lead the children of Isreal with a pillar of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. It was the spirit that gives to us the gifts and the understandings. And we aska ourselves sometimes, why is it important for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Why should I even think about the Spirit-filled life.

Well, Isaiah had it in mind long before it ever got to us. And he made to us the model that this spirit of the Lord was on Jesus Christ. That's the thing that made him unique. That's the thing that made him distinct. That's the thing that made him to stand out above all other men. Because he was filled with the spirit of the Lord. The Bible tells us he will be filled with the spirit from the very beginning. And we know that spirit was God is available to us.

Now, when Pentecost became reality then no longer was it selective because he said, I'm going to pour out my spirit upon all flesh and you sons and your daughters are going to prophesy and your old men are going to dream dreams and your young men are going to see visions. And I'm going to pour out my spirit upon all flesh.

And we're living in the time when God is doing that right now. But why, and what difference does it make if I'm filled with the spirit. If I'm living the spirit-filled life what my, what my, what should my life really be. We get the answer to that in Eph. 5:18-20 when it says

Do not be drunk with wine wherein is in excess but be filled with the spirit.

Then it tells us what that means to us.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

The first reason that we have the spirit is for our own personal edification. Because when the spirit of the Lord is with us and we learn the meaning of the

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prayer language in our lives. That edifying spirit enables to ride above anything that is in this world. I don't know what people do without that renewal. There's no synthetic drug on the market that will take the place of a life that's filled with the Holy Spirit of God. When you get in touch with the spirit there's not any devil that you can't lick...amen...amen..and amen....clapping... Well, Hallelujah....Well, praise God....Praise God forever....

So it starts out with that inner edification but then it really means that we've got to learn to worship. It says singing and making melody in your heart for the ears of the Lord. You know, when you really get in the spirit then it's not just ministering to each other or being ministered to by the Lord. But it's ministering to him.

One of the great joys that we have is ministering to him. Some people come into our worship services and they, they can't understand it. What are you people doing? We are ministering to the Lord. Now, I don't know how you minister to the Lord without opening your mouth. I don't know how you minister to the Lord without showing some emotion. I don't know how you can express love unless you use your hands and your feet and your arms and everything that's about you. You say, Lord I love you with all that is within me...clapping...Hallelujah....Well, Praise the Lord....Well, praise the name of the Lord. Hallelujah...Hallelujah..Well, praise him in this place.. Glory be to God forever...amen..amen..and amen....clapping...

And we need to be filled with the spirit and with Lord because it brings to us a place of worship. But, then it tells to thank God at all times for everything as we go through Eph. 5:18-20. That means we live a life of gratitude. You know, the strange thing when people get full of the Holy Spirit the first thing they want to do is thank everybody. Have you ever noticed that? ...laughter....They just get this spirit of gratitude and everywhere they do they're thanking people and telling them how wonderful they are.

Most people have never learned how to say I love you in gratitude until they get filled with the spirit. Somehow the spirit cuts through all the inhibitions and takes away all of the fences that we put up. It tears down the doubt and takes down the facade and opens up a transparency where we were able to say to others, I thank God for you and everything that is in my life because I have a great gratitude to life, to God...clapping...amen..amen..

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and amen....clapping... Well, Halleluah....

But you know the fourth thing that really comes when you're filled with the spirit is the sense of transparency. Because it tells us then that we are mutually submit to one another. And the Phillips translation says, fitting in with one another because of your common reverence for Jesus Christ. You know, when you really get full of the spirit you don't have anything to hide. Hello. Are you there? ...laughter...

When you really get full of the spirit there's no hidden agenda. When you get really full of the spirit there are no aces up your sleeve. When you really get full of the spirit you get honest and open and congruent before the Lord because he's broken down all of those ego necessities that try to make us better than our fellow man. And he raises us to a place where we learn the meaning of servanthood and we learn that he who would be greatest in the kingdom must learn to be the least in the kingdom...amen..amen..and amen... clapping...Well, Hallelujah...Hallelujah be to God...clapping...

Now, the great danger with us carasmatics is that we'll come to that point that we get back into the old subdifuge. Start wearing the old masks. You know, when people first get filled with the Holy Spirit you need to lock them up. We say that constantly.....laughter... Because it's just like they've come into a new world and a new existance and they just kinda float around. Have you ever seen anybody, they just kinda float here and they float there. ...laughter...

And you know, it's amazing when you first get the spirit you think everybody's got the spirit. And nobody knows what you're talking about...laughter.. You go to the office and you're just flipping aroundn the ceiling and everybody thinks, what in the world is going on...laughter... You are sick. What drugs are you on...laughter...What is in y our pill bottle....laughter...

And you say, I just got filled with the HOLY Ghost. And they say what? ...laughter....You got filled with what? I've tried LSD, and I've tried marjuiana but where do you get this Holy Ghost...laughter...

Because you know what happens to you is. When the Holy Spirit comes into

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heart, He clenses out all of that sorted past. He takes away all of those sorted problems, He takes away all those worries that you have and he makes you like a brand new person and you're free from those things, at least for a while until you go back and decide to pick em up again. But if you'll live by the spirit, the past is dead and gone Amen, Amen and Amen....well hallelujah.. well hallelujah.....well hallelujah....praise be the lamb of God...blessed be His name in this place....praise Him...

And when you really understand that it makes a change in your personality, thats ~~what~~ the whol idea of the fruit of the spirit is about. Gal 5:19-22, you get the idea of the flesh. And then in verse 22 He talks about what ought to be ~~the~~ productivity. Because you see after we learn that grattitude and that transparency, after we've come to that place where we really understand what it means to have edification, what it means to have worship, what it means - to have gratitude, what it means to have transparency. Then we have to come to that place of productivity. What the holy spirit does in our lives is make us more productive. And helps us to understand the meaning of love, and joy, and peace, and patience. I just wish that that were'nt in that list. You know thats ~~the~~ hardest thing that we all have patience. I don't know who coined that word. I'd like to find who that person was. Because it's the hardest thing ~~that~~ we all have patience. Carmilita sometimes says to me patience Paul patience, patience. I don't want to have patience, I want it done now. I've put in ~~my~~ quarter, I want it complete, quick return. If I don't get it i'm gonna kick the machine. (laughter)

I want serv ice quick right now, you don't understand who I am! ( laughter) Patience. What a terrible word. (laughter) Kindness. Now thats - now who wants to be kind. Its much easier to jerk you around you stupid kid (laughter) Kind? ~~who~~ wants to be kind? Goodness, moral integrety. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self control. OH! (laughter) I mean ~~who~~ wants a govener on their motor (laughter). I like to go wide open (laughter) When I go skiing I figure the quickest way to the bottom is to put the skiis straight. Somebody said something

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about traverse, i've heard that word somewhere. I don't believe in that! It's more fun to go wide open. But if everybody goes wide open, everything shuts up. There comes those points in time, when the radar of the holy spirit put within us, gives us a discerning bower to know whats right and whats wrong. You don't need a list, you don't need a catalogue, you need the spirit in you and that spirit in you will give you the direction as you listen to His voice. Amen, Amen and Amen.... hallelujah....well praise the lord in this place.... well praise the lord in this place...hallelujah...hallelujah (clapping stops)

And when you add all of that up what that really means to you and what that really means to me, is hope. The number one thing that we ought to get out of spirit filled living is a sense of hope. Now Isaiah gives to us that hope in this chapter. He talks about it historically. He talks about it socially. He talks about it spiritually. He talks about it emotionally. He talks about it personally. Now if there are any people who ought to be living today, giving to the world a sense of hope, it ought to be the people who say the spirit of the Lord is upon me. Now you can't talk about faith without hope. Hope is the contex. Hope is the motivator. Faith is the actualizer. Faith is the activator. But its in the contex of that desire plus expectation the confident anticipation of fullfilment which devides hope defines hope by which we live our lives.

Now what Isaiah is trying to say to Israel, and what Isaiah is trying to say to you and to me, in making the connection between the old testament and the new testament is, that in Jesus Christ we are people of hope. Now theres something that bothers me when I go accross the country and I talk with many people today, they so easily give up their hope. Our hope is not tied to the hippocrits. Our hope is not tied to those who are in error. Our hope is not tied to the fads and the fancies. Our hope is not tied to the dow jones index. Our hope is not tied to wall street. Our hope is not tied to the political climate. Our hope is built on nothing less than Christ the solit rock, and He is the one who gives us the power to live Amen, Amen and Amen.....Amen....Praise the Lord in this place....hallelujah

and when we begin to ubderstand that hope and to see that hope, then we

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begin to understand the meaning of the spirit filled life. I would dare say that much of our problem tonight is because we've run out of hope. In our businesses we run out of hope. In our homes we run out of hope. But what you've got to see is that hope is your motivator. Without hope there is no motivation. You see, what the holy spirit does, it gives us that constant hope regardless of what's going on.

Romans 8:14 tells us that we are that Abraham believed through hope. Romans 8:24 tells us that we are saved through hope. Romans 5:3-5 tells us

We rejoice in our suffering because we know that suffering produces perseverance. Perseverance produces character and character produces hope.

And we are not disappointed in hope because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the holy spirit whom he has given us. Hope becomes a motivator.

You know every once in a while I get in a position where I can help someone in a tangible way. And it's always a blessing to be able to do that. But I remember a young student some time ago. Who had come down to a certain place in their college curriculum when they run out of money and needed money badly and I heard about it. So I was anonymously able to give them some money and then later they found out where it came from. When they graduated from college, I'll never forget, when they'd found out where the money had come from. They dropped me a note and said in that letter, said "not only did your money pay my bills and keep me in college, but your money gave me a new sense of hope. You see that's the whole sense of the meaning it motivates us. Without hope, there is no motivation. Without hope, you don't want to get out of bed in the morning. You know I don't care, you know...Milton, who was blind, once made the statement that it's no tragedy to be blind, it's a tragedy not to learn how to handle blindness. Matthew Henry the great writer of the Bible, the great commentator of the Bible was robbed while he was in a meeting. Somebody broke into his apartment and stole everything he had. And he wrote in his diary, "I thank God that I was robbed and not killed. I thank God that even

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though it was all the money that I had that was stolen, it wasn't enough to be worried about. ....laughter....

You say, that sounds like my house...laughter...

And the third thing he wrote down. He said, I thank God that I was robbed and I was not the one who robbed. You see, the point that I'm making is that hope has to be the motivator. There's hope there that continues. But you see, hope is the sustainer. Romans 15:4 it says that things were written in the past. And they were written in the past to teach us that through encouragement and endurance in the scriptures we might have hope.

You see, when you give up your loose hope. That's what happens. When you give up on your child you've lost hope. When you give up on your husband you've lost hope. When you give up on your wife you've lost hope. And the point is that too many of us give up too quickly. We give up too easily. We give up to the point that we don't really break through we get right to the brink and that's as far as we go.

You know, it's kinda like Mark when he was trying to learn to play the guitar. ....laughter....He got to the point he could play "Wendy." ....laughter.... And we heard "Wendy" morning, noon, and night...laughter... And he never broke through past "Wendy"...laughter...Consequently we don't ever hear him play the guitar...laughter....He was banned from the guitar. But you see, he lost hope. He decided....laughter....He decided he'd never get past "Wendy." Now on the piano he got to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. ....laughter....Mine eyes have seen the glory of the bump, bump, bump bump. ....laughter....And that's as far as we ever got. He gave up hope.

The next he had hope in a lot of other areas of his life where he succeeded in his life very admirably. But the point is, without hope we are not sustained. When you decide I'm not going any farther. I don't want to go any farther. I don't want to do any more. I don't want to pay the price. I don't want to be what I have to be. That's when your life stops growing.

The thing that made the Apostle Paul what he was, it didn't matter how

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he felt. It didn't matter what the circumstances were. It didn't matter what the situation was. It didn't matter how the deck was stacked. I know in whom I have believed and I'm going to press for the goal to win the prize that is calling me heavenward in Jesus Christ. And I'm going to break through whatever the situation might be....amen..amdn and amen...clapping...That's it...Hallelujah...Hallelujah...Well, praise the Lord in this place....

But you see, hope inspires. You see, what happens to Israel, they lost their motivation. They lost their sustaining power. They lost their inspiration because they lost their hope. Hope inspires. Have you ever noticed 1 Peter 3:15 it says

To separate in our hearts the Lordship of Christ Jesus and be ready always to give an answer to the reason of the hope that is with you, within you with respect and with gentleness, with meekness and fear.

The King James says. It's better to say gentleness and respect is really a more accurate translation.

Now, what he's really saying is we ought to stay in that inspired of kind of state. I don't mean circulation around the feet, the ceiling. I don't mean that you're never going to feel angry. I don't mean that you're ever going to feel down. I don't mean that there's not going to be appropriate times for you to cry or feel sad. I don't mean that there's not going to be an appropriate times when you're going to have momentary and temporary depression.

But you see, the difference between the spirit-filled person and the non-spirit-filled person. The difference between the person with hope and not hope is the bouncing back ability. The bouncing back ability. You know, you've got to allow your time to be depressed. You've got to say, alright this is where the 10 minute depression...laughter..... Now, some things are worth 20 minutes of depression...laughter....If it's really bad you might be depressed an hour.

But depression never changes anything. Do you know anything that depression ever changed. We have the idea, now if I'll stay depressed three months it's going to be different....laughter....Right? But it's always worse when you come out of the depression you get back to the land of the living

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you say, it's now worse now than it was before. I think I'll go back to the depression...laughter.... Because we lose our inspiration.

The spirit has to give the inspiration. There's an inspiration to the hope that's in the Lord. Last Sunday morning in the 11:30 service we received the word that a lady who called and the secretarial staff gave me the word the what joy and what exuberance. You see in the 11:30 service I was healed of bleeding ulcers. And I just wanted to share that with Pastor Walker. And my parents who are from another country and speak a different language are in church. Couldn't understand a word and sat there and cried through the whole thing. As the Holy Spirit began to work in their heart and move in their lives. Because it's that point of spiritual inspiration.

What did Romans 14:70 say

That the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

What did Christ say in John 16:24 that

Until now you have not received anything because you have not asked for anything. Ask and you will receive that what, your joy might be full or might be complete.

That's inspiration.

Shall we pray.