

HOPE

Part 2

51 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk
Church on the Park Live | Resurrection Sunday, 12 April 2020

Text: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13, NASB).

Theme: You were created to live with abundant hope.

Intro: Recently, my wife, Anna, planted three very small Frangipane cuttings in our front garden. She planted them with the hope that one day these Frangipane cuttings would grow into a beautiful sheltered garden area. Seeds give us hope. The planter of the seed has a vision that the future will be better because the seed will grow. Seeds change the future and they make the world a better place.

1) You were created to have abundant hope (Rom. 15:13).

- You were created to abound in hope.
- *Why?*
 - Because the God who **created you** is the **God of hope**.
 - Even **before** God created, he knew the **destruction** we would bring to earth because of our **sin**.
 - God **still created** because he was **filled with hope**.
 - The Lord had a **plan and a purpose** and it all had to do with a **seed**.
 - According to the Bible, hope is not **merely wishful thinking**.
 - Instead, it's a **confident expectation** of **God's goodness** in your present and future.
 - Life is like a **game of chess**. You may lose some pieces, but if you have great foresight, you will be able to win the game. And God is the great **chess master**.
 - God knew that **whatever** the enemy threw at him, **his grace** would be **greater** than sin and evil.
 - **Hope** is the **key** to living in the **fullness** of **joy and peace**.
 - Listen to **Romans 15:13** again.
 - “Now may **the God of hope** fill you with **all joy and peace** in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13, NASB).
 - *How is this possible to **abound** in hope?*
 - By **faith** which connects you to the power of the Holy Spirit.

2) The Father chose to revolutionise the world—with all its sin, pain and suffering—through a seed (Gal. 3:16).

- “Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to one, ‘And to **your seed,**’ that is, **Christ**. (Gal. 3:16, NASB; cf. Gal. 3:19)
 - In Galatians, Paul describes **Jesus as the seed**.
 - He is **Abraham's seed**, but more than that, he is **the heavenly Father's seed**.
 - *What were the precious promises God spoke to Abraham around 4000 years ago and 2000 years before Jesus came?*
 - **God's promises to Abraham** and his seed were to: 1) Be his God, 2) Be with him, 3) Bless him and 4) Make him a blessing to the nations.
 - These are promises of **great hope**.
 - This is the **heart of God's covenant**: 1) a **Personal Relationship** with God, 2) the **Presence** of God, 3) the **Power** of God and 4) the **Promises** of God flowing through you to others.
 - We worship **the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**. This is the God who **speaks and reveals** himself to his people. This is the God who **walks with us and rescues us**.

This is the God who **makes something out of nothing**. This is the God who **turns the curse into a blessing**.

3) The Father's seed is the key to abounding in hope (Matt. 3:16-17; John 12:24).

- I love **gardens**. I'm preparing this message in our backyard garden. I made myself a little cafe with a table, chairs and coffee.
 - I love the Brisbane Botanical Gardens, which I miss. And my favourite place is the Bayard Cutting Arboretum in Long Island, New York.
- I love gardens because they **remind me of Jesus**, who is the **seed of the Father**.
 - Let's look **deeper** at the **SEED**. [Pull out the avocado seed]
- **1 - First, Jesus was SELECTED.**
 - The Father **selected his Son as the Seed** that would revolutionise the world.
 - The Father selected his Son as the Seed **before the world began**.
 - From **eternity**, the Father selected his seed. He held it in his **hand** and **cherished** it. He prophesied about it through **Old Testament history**. He revealed it in **stories, songs, events, people and oracles**. For those who have eyes to see it, **every page of the Hebrew Bible** speaks about this **precious seed** the Father had chosen.
 - The Father **selected** his Son as the Seed **because** he knew his Son would be **completely loyal and obedient to him**.
 - We have hope today because of **Christ's obedience** to his Father.
 - That's the '**O**' in our **HOPE** acronym: **Obedience or Obey**.
- **2 - Second, Jesus was EXHIBITED by the Father for the world to see.**
 - The Father **held** this seed in his hand, waiting till the **perfect time** to sow it into the world. He spent **four thousand years preparing the soil of humanity** to receive the seed. Even with all that preparation, some of his people fought against him. But the good news is that there was a **remnant** that received this **perfect and pure seed of his Son**.
 - When the Father exhibited his Son to the world he told the world how **pleased** he was of his Son.
 - Listen to the Father: **"This is my beloved Son in whom I am so pleased"** (Matt. 3:17).
 - The Father was **so pleased** because of the **Son's love, devotion, humility and obedience**.
 - Jesus was **sinless—perfectly righteous and holy—no blemish** was found in God's **lamb**.
 - This is why the Father's seed has so much power.
 - The **power** was because of its **purity**.
 - It was **God's incorruptible seed**.
 - **3 - Third, Jesus was ENSHROUDED and ENTOMBED through crucifixion.**
 - The **avocado stone - the stone** that the **builders rejected**
 - After the Father exhibited his seed to the world he **sowed his seed** into the ground.
 - The Father's seed was **enshrouded and entombed** through **crucifixion and burial**.
 - And it was no coincidence that Jesus was enshrouded and **entombed in a garden**.
 - Also, **a large stone** kept him **locked in** to his tomb.
 - When Jesus was buried in the ground (**so to speak**), **his roots** began to **grow** underneath the surface.
 - He was **hidden and buried**—but this was **not the end** of the story.
 - **Jesus went to the cross** because he was **full of hope**. He shared this hope with his disciples throughout his ministry, but they couldn't understand it. The idea of a physical resurrection after a cruel and gruelling crucifixion was totally foreign to them.
 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls** into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit (John 12:24).
 - **4 - Fourth and last, Jesus was DELIVERED from DEATH through resurrection.**
 - The seed that was **planted** and lost to the eye, **rose again**.
 - The **seed sprouted in resurrection life**.
 - The **stone** that blocked the tomb supernaturally rolled away and **Jesus walked out victorious over sin, death and the devil's schemes (Luke 24:1-12)**.

- The **resurrection** of Jesus means **victory** over everything that **spoiled the garden of God's creation**.
- The resurrection means victory over **sin, sickness and shame**.
- And soon it began to **bear fruit** in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and now throughout the **world**.

4) Let the Father plant the seed of Christ in your heart (James 1:21).

- The Father has already planted the seed of Christ in the **world**...
- **But** have you let the Father plant **the seed of Christ in your heart**.
- This **seed** planted in you will be the **beginning of new life and abounding in hope**.
- Again listen to Romans 15:13.
 - *Who is the **Holy Spirit**?*
 - He is the presence of the Almighty God who has come to live and breath inside of you. He is the God who is with you—if you will receive him.
 - God knows the end from the beginning. He knows that all things will be completed in him. He knows there will be a new heaven and a new earth. He knows that even now, you can taste the powers of the age to come.
- When the Holy Spirit is living and breathing within you, God's hope becomes your hope.

Conclusion: The Father's seed was chosen to revolutionise the world—and your life as well. God selected this seed—Jesus Christ—and wants to sow it into your heart. Will you let him? The Father's seed is the beginning of true hope.

END NOTES

Misc Personal Notes

When our God was creating the seed and plant life on the third day, there was one thing on his mind—his Son, Jesus.

Right now, what we are experiencing is birth pains. Yes, birth pains are painful—but they are the pain of hope. We know that through birth pains comes new birth.

As believers, we should not be swallowed up by conspiracy theories and fears of evil. Instead, we know that the shakings that are happening in this world are birth pains.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.

21 “Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

22 “Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one *will* take your joy away from you.

[*New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*](#). (1995). (Jn 16:20–22). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

A house smells much better when you are cooking your own meals rather than ordering take away from someone else’s fast-food cooking.

Matthew 24:1-14 - The beginning of birth pains

We must have a faith that transcends buildings, smoke machines, light shows and stain glassed windows.

Every father must rise up and be a priest in their homes. Mothers must also rise up and cover their homes in Christ’s blood.

This is not the end—but everyday we get closer to the end.

Mark 13:8

“But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:18. NASB).

Survival tactics

The seed

S - Selected by the Father

E - Exhibited by God for the world to see

E - Enshrouded and entombed through crucifixion, but...

D - Delivered from death through resurrection

Exhibited, Enshrouded & Entombed, Delivered from death through resurrection.

God's seed is

Set apart & sanctified
Eternal,
Enduring,
Desirable & Divine.

We sow seeds in hope. My wife, Anna, just planted some Frangipane seeds (cuttings) in our garden. Her hope is that one day that will provide a beautiful covering and shelter.

Seeds give hope. Seeds change the future. Seeds if sown, multiply.

The Father has sown the seed of Christ into the world to revolutionise it.