



CCN WEEKLY SOLUTIONS SERIES
THE WEEK OF APRIL 2, 2007



Hope: Hope Springs Eternal

Featuring
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Best-selling co-author of Boundaries series,
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I. Introduction

Understanding the anatomy and workings of hope

“My hope is in God”: understand what has to be there for that to be so

II. Hoping and wishing are not the same

A wish is 100% subjective

- It comes entirely out of us
- No necessary relation to reality
- “Hope” that’s actually a wish is temptation

Hope is not subjective

- We can have hope when it’s the last thing we *feel*

Hope is not orientation toward future

- It has everything to do with the past
- God gives history lessons (the Red Sea, Hebrews 11)
- The infant learning not to despair

*Hope deferred
makes the heart
sick, but a
longing fulfilled
is a tree of life.
—Prov. 13:12*

We look toward the future as we’ve gotten from our past

III. Objective realities that bring about hope

1. Character change

- The “sluggard” of Prov. 15:19: not lazy, but leaning
- Might there be painful steps (“thorns”) you’ve been avoiding?

*The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.
—Prov. 15:19*

2. “A longing fulfilled” (Prov. 13:12)

- If a longing is never fulfilled, there’s no hope
- You may need positive outcomes—tiny successes—in a different setting

3. Wisdom

- “Things they didn’t know that they didn’t know”
- When we learn something new—new patterns—everything changes
- Sometimes we’re just one piece of wisdom away from unlocking the door

Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.—Prov.

4. There is a God who transcends all hopelessness

- The wind in John 3: look around and see where God has been
- As Job said: *Even though He slay me, yet will I trust Him*

*Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord. There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.
—Prov. 23:17-18*

IV. One of two problems

Either we trust in God and don’t realize we’re “kinda goofy”...

- We need to find out what the problem is that we don’t know about

... Or some of us are working very hard, but the God piece is missing

- “Self-help is the ultimate oxymoron”

None of us becomes who we’re supposed to be till we open the door to our need for God

Next Week on “Solutions”

Hope: Is Time on Your Side?

Resources:

BOOKS:

Integrity

By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.cloudtownsend.com

Changes that Heal

By Dr. Henry Cloud
www.zondervan.com

How People Grow

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