

THAT WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE

Part 2 - Protecting Hope

Text: Romans 15:4 NKJV

TWO THINGS THAT HELP HOPE

- Perseverance: quality of character which does not surrender to circumstances
 1. A character quality we are encouraged to pursue **(1 Timothy 6:11 NKJV)**
 2. Perseverance is developed in difficult times **(James 1:2-3 NKJV)**
 3. God can strengthen us to persevere **(Colossians 1:9-11 NKJV)**
- The encouragement of the scriptures
 1. Scriptures give us a basis for belief and pattern to follow
 2. Cultures may have changed but God and His truth have not **(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV)**

THE NECESSITY OF PROTECTING HOPE

- Hezekiah's words helped people facing crisis **(2 Chronicles 32:7-8 NKJV)**
 1. Encouraged them not to fear despite the challenge
 2. Reminded them that God was with them and He was a bigger force
 3. The people were strengthened by these words
- Being encouraged did not mean the problem went away
 1. The king of Assyria stepped up his psychological warfare **(2 Chronicles 32:10-11 NKJV)**
 2. The king of Assyria bombarded them with facts and a disdain for God
 3. The Assyrian king kept up the barrage of fear **(2 Chronicles 32:18-20 NKJV)**
 4. Hezekiah and Isaiah took the problem to God

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR HOPE

- Recognize our need for words that build us up **(Acts 20:32 NKJV)**
 1. God's words build us
- Recognize the voice of fear - but don't let it be the loudest voice
 1. Can come across as pure logical or fact **(2 Corinthians 4:18 NKJV)**
 2. Fear diminishes God's ability to help or make a difference
 3. Fear will weaken us and can cause us to give up **(Joshua 1:9 NKJV)**
- Don't just cry - cry out to God **(Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV)**
 1. This verse applies in all situations