

INTRO

- Autumn officially begins this week. What's your favourite part of this season?

In this short series on hope, we are looking to discover how we can have real hope for the real world. None of us is exempt from struggle or pain, but there is a way we can walk through it with hope.

"In a place or a time of hopelessness — a promise makes a difference." —Bomi Roberson

READ

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb. Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. — Romans 4:18-21 NLT

REFLECT & RESPOND

"Unquenchable hope awakens when it is connected to a godly promise and is cultivated by the practice of praise."

1. Unquenchable hope must be connected to a godly promise.

For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abraham's faith did not weaken... Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise.

Sometimes we get disillusioned or discouraged when we hope for and expect something:

- That God didn't promise
- That takes way too long
- That didn't happen the we thought it would

Qu: Can you tell of a time when you hoped for something and felt like those hopes were dashed?

Proverbs 13:12 tells us, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life."

Qu: Where do you discover "godly promises" that bring life and "unquenchable hope"?

2. Hope awakes when cultivated by giving praise — the practice of praise.

Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations...

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.

Promise → hope → fulfillment of the promise

Qu: During the in-between time between the promise and the fulfillment of that promise how can you, as Abraham, bring "glory to God"?

Qu: Applying this to 2022, with all the negative voices speaking to the current instability and uncertainty around the world, consider a promise or two from scripture that brings you hope.

PRAY

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." — Romans 15:13 NIV

- Pray for one another: that each one may overflow in hope, in joy, in peace, by the power of the Holy Spirit.