

Gates of Hope



“I will give her her vineyards from there,
And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope;” Hosea 2:15

The scriptural promise of Hosea 2:15 to open a door of hope in the Valley of Achor (meaning trouble) is a powerful promise in the midst of any turmoil we may face personally, in any situation for our family, work, church, city, nation(s). Do we see that door of hope that is just beyond the difficulty and challenge? The word “Hope” is the same Hebrew word (תִּקְוָה *tiqwâ*) used for the scarlet “cord” that Rahab agreed to tie on her window in Joshua 2:18,21 after assisting the Hebrew spies to escape. This rope was a sign-post and security that would deliver her family into safety during the takeover and destruction of Jericho. Her simple act of obedience set her in the line that led to Jesus. Hope is a powerful cord that links us to heaven and destiny in times of trouble.

Out of your valley of trouble, pain, and testing, what is the cord of hope that links you to the promises of God. They are there. If you can’t see it, pray for it, and see how God responds.

1. **The Stronghold of Hope:** Meditate on hope and apply it to that which concerns you, your family, city, nation.
 - a. Romans 5:3-5 (NKJV) And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 - b. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NKJV) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.
2. **The Bridge of Hope:** In times of testing/trial/tribulation, hope is the cord (like the story of the scarlet cord of Rahab) that bridges us to the redemptive

purposes of God to bring restoration and manifestation of His purpose. There are two powerful concepts in “Redemption:”

- a. The recovery of that which is lost and the liberation of that which is bound:
 - i. The first of these truths suggests the breadth of His redemptive work. To say that God is our Redeemer is to say that what has been lost (missed opportunity, lost time, a broken relationship) can be recovered in such a way that , through His grace, our ultimate destiny in Him is not jeopardized! God will restore in His way that which has been lost.
 - ii. The liberating feature in God’s redemptive workings underscores its depth. To free those bound by sin, a payment was necessary. That payment took the form of a cross. Yet, it is important to understand that Christ did not “pay” Satan, nor did He “pay” the Father, as if the Father’s ire had to be assuaged. Rather, Jesus paid the price to uphold the pristine integrity of God’s Word, which is the very force that holds all things together. The Cross was the only way mankind could be saved and God’s moral law still be fully upheld. ¹
3. **The Result of Hope:** Restoration: Hope is a bridge that leads us to redemption and restoration! Meditate on it!
- a. Romans 5:5 “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
 - b. Ephesians 1:17-19 “the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”
Luke 4:18-19

¹ The Spirit Filled Life Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2002; “Kingdom Dynamics: The Redeemer God,” Job 19:25-26; Pg. 662