

## Pastor's Weekly Devotional (December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

One of the Key ingredients of life is HOPE. No – I am not talking about “wishful thinking.” I am talking about “The Certainty of Hope.” Without hope, life would be dull, despairing, depressing and can even lead to suicidal tendencies.

Just when you think...“I can't take it anymore.” Or “Nobody cares whether I live or die.” Or “I am not worth anything,” or “I am a failure – what's the use of trying...” HOLD ONTO HOPE. For believers, “hope” is not abstract, it is a person – the Lord Jesus Christ.

History is filled with people who held on to Hope:

- Alex Graham Bell was laughed at for his invention of the telephone
- Beethoven composed most of his music while getting steadily deaf
- Abe Lincoln was defeated in elections 9 times before he became President

But you say: “you don't know my situation!” Here's something for you to think about.

- Hope looks for the good in people and ignore their meanness
- Hope does not live in Quittersville
- Hope sees failure as the ladder to success because it will try and try again until it succeeds.
- Hope forgives and does not yield to cynicism or misunderstandings
- Hope creates “An Overcomer.” When you fall, YOU CHOOSE TO GET UP rather than stay in the pit of self-pity. That's the pathway of Hope!

Be an agent of hope today! Give life to those dying in despair and discouragement! Ask yourself: “What is so special about ME that God would demonstrate His love and forgiveness to ME? And why can't I be An Agent of Hope to others – even those we don't care for?”

A closing thought: HOLD ONTO HOPE! How?

1. Pray. Share your fears and frustrations with God. He cares!
2. Know You Are On Earth For A Purpose. God made you for a reason.
3. Persevere and Be Patient. How long do you think it took the turtle to get to Noah's Ark?
4. Find Someone Who Cares – a good friend! A Good listener!

It is easy to quit. It is easy to be trapped by negative thinking. But these things breed despair.

Hold onto hope. It is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Have a blessed week!  
Pastor Sewdin