

# Spread This!

Part 2 Spread Contagious HOPE Romans 8:24-25

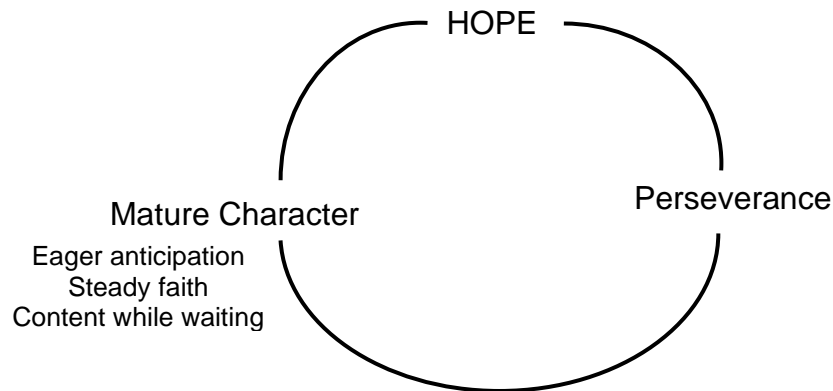
- Hope plays a strategic ROLE in God's plan for humanity  
1 Cor. 13:13

FAITH → HOPE → LOVE → GOD → FAITH

- HOPE sets its sights on things UNSEEN Romans 8:24-25

- A Pillar of Hope – ABRAHAM Romans 4:18-22  
*'In hope against hope he believed'*

- The CYCLE of Hope  
Romans 5:3-5 – tribulations – perseverance – proven character – **hope**  
Romans 8:25 – **hope** – perseverance – anticipation



- Let's be '*hopers*' in the PROMISES of GOD Romans 4:23-25
  - Hope must be fixed on SOMEONE
  - Hope must be fixed on SOMETHING
  - Our SPIRITUAL hope surpasses all other hopes Romans 15:13

## Life Group Discussion Questions – April 26, 2020

**Romans 8:24-25:** *'For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.'*

### QUICK REVIEW

1. What happens to us physically and emotionally when we spend time focusing on the circumstances and problems in our lives? Explain why this is actually a focus on self. Are there counter-measures we should be taking?
2. We can only spread what we have contracted. Said another way, we cannot give away what we have not first received. What are some examples of God first doing His part so that we can do our part? Read Romans 5:8. Why is this truth key to the Christian faith?

### MY STORY

1. What's the difference between a "white-knuckling" life and a posture of open hands? Which of those ways do you feel like you are living right now?
2. How does your prior experience with God help you trust Him through a season of trials?
3. What would it look like for you to have hope that is shareable? Who in your life do you desire to have hope the most? What's a step you can take to make your hope contagious around them?

### GOING DEEP

1. Read Psalm 71:14-18. The psalmist doesn't just have hope—he is letting others know. What's the difference between having hope personally and having contagious hope? What's the difference between hope and despair?
2. Read Romans 4:18-22. Abraham believed God's promise that he would be a "father of many nations." Where do you see Abraham's perseverance and contentment while waiting for fulfillment of the promise? In what things are you trusting in God and relying on Him?
3. Hope is a growing thing. It cannot remain idle. Describe how the "Hope Cycle" is self-perpetuating. In what ways can this cycle be interrupted? What function does eager anticipation play in God's working-out a situation in your life? In the same way, what does your steady faith and contentment while waiting do?
4. When the load gets too heavy due to worry about what is seen (the temporal), we can lighten the load by dwelling on what is unseen (the eternal). Why is it so difficult to trust what we cannot see? Like "doubting Thomas," are we really saying we don't believe that there are tangible things in the unseen spiritual realm unless we see them first? (see 2 Kings 6:14-17)

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?