

Message: Abounding in Hope

Service: Go Church Centurion

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Each year, as this season arrives, people express their expectations, emotions, and hopes for what lies ahead. The atmosphere is often filled with mixed feelings. For some, there is genuine excitement—still savouring the victories of 2025 and looking forward with anticipation to how the new year will unfold.

Some approach the new year with caution, determined to tread carefully and avoid setting their expectations too high. They strive to ensure that nothing goes wrong, doing all they can to manage what lies ahead.

Others carry disappointment and discouragement from the past year—2025 may have been especially painful, marked by loss in the family or the burden of chronic medical diagnoses affecting loved ones.

Perhaps 2025 brought its share of financial struggles, leaving you feeling as though you barely made it through, surviving by the skin of your teeth. Maybe you faced trials at work, encountered obstacles in your business or studies, or dealt with health challenges. For some, the year was marked by battles with depression or anxiety. The challenges can seem endless, and the list often feels like it never stops.

I'm not sure where you find yourself along this spectrum.

Questions

1. Where do you find yourself as this new year begins?
2. How are you truly feeling—spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and in terms of your health and other areas of your life?
3. Where do you stand regarding your expectations, emotions, and hope for the year ahead?

This morning, I want to encourage us.

The title of my message is Abounding in hope.

This is an exhortation that resonates deeply with me, especially in light of my own personal circumstances, and I trust that you will find it meaningful as well.

Anchor Scripture:

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Romans 15:13 NLT

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 15:13 NKJV

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. God of hope – ‘May the God of hope!’

Hope is the expectation with certainty that God will do what he has said.

I'm not sure what the source of your hope is—perhaps from your intellect, age, experiences, net worth, or the voices of those around you. Yet, Paul makes it clear that God is the true source of hope. He is hope personified. His unchanging character is a steadfast foundation on which we can rely.

By implication, any primary source of hope apart from God is likely to be, problematic, unreliable, unsustainable, and may ultimately lead to confusion, disappointment, and anxiety.

Isaiah 26:4 (NIV)

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

Deuteronomy 32:4a

He is the Rock, His work is perfect.

Makes reference to His stable nature.

Psalm 138:8

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Perhaps, when you look at your life, it seems messy and far from the perfection that comes from God's hand. But hold on—keep going.

If we are to be honest, along the journey of life, we've all sometimes, placed our hope in situations that ultimately disappointed us. Perhaps it was a relationship—family or otherwise—an employer who let you down, or a financier who didn't keep their word.

In July last year, my dad was diagnosed with a chronic condition on top of his existing hereditary illness. I had a chat with a friend whose parents had also faced chronic diagnoses and, having walked this journey for years and she offered a perspective that stayed with me. She said, **“Vim, no matter what circumstances we go through in our lives, they are always subject to the authority and truth of God’s Word.”**

No situation in our lives should diminish the power of God's Word. Sometimes, God may not answer our prayers in the season or manner we desire—or perhaps not at all. Most of us have examples of this. I'm not standing here claiming that every prayer will be answered. Other times, we may never know why God didn't respond as we hoped.

His word reminds us that:

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. ⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Yet, even if some prayers remain unanswered, there are others that God has answered and will answer beautifully. I would rather stand in hope, faith, and expectancy, bringing my prayers and concerns before God, than allow doubt to hold me back by wondering, “What if He doesn’t answer them?”

Yes, life is a journey that calls us to be both practical and anchored in reality, but at the same time, God remains the God of hope.

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Questions:

1. Do you sincerely believe that God, is the God of hope?
2. Is your hope anchored in other things, rather than in God?
3. In what areas of your life do you feel your hope in God is waning? What are you doing about?

2. Fill you with all joy and peace in believing

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Joy and peace are deep internal states of being.

Joy and peace (fruits of the Holy Spirit) are received by the Holy Spirit through faith, trusting in God and His Word.

We must diligently protect our joy and peace, refusing to let the enemy steal them from us.

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Jesus desires that we experience joy that transcends worldly happiness, rooted in our relationship with Him.

The joy mentioned is not fleeting but is meant to be a full and complete experience, fulfilling the deepest desires of the heart.

His joy is meant to be a guiding light in our lives, even during trials.

We are reminded of the joy that comes from a life of faith and obedience to Jesus.

Nehemiah 8:10

10 Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

When we surrender our burdens to the Lord, His peace takes over. As His peace fills our hearts and minds, the distracting voices and noises around us fade away.

Psalm 93:3-4

The floods have lifted up, O Lord. The floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves. 4 The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea.

Even when the floods of our lives rise up with their voices and waves, the Lord remains mightier than all that noise.

Questions:

1. What are the things that have robbed you of your joy and peace?
2. Do you intentionally ask God to give you His joy and His peace?
3. What can you do to guard your joy and peace?

3. Through the experience of your faith

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Faith is a personal dynamic—your faith, not your spouse's, neighbours, or parents, but your own.

Sometimes there are things you trust God for deep within your heart—things you cannot share with too many people, because they might think you've lost your marbles.

Story

The Tenerife airport disaster occurred on 27 March 1977, when two Boeing 747 passenger jets collided on the runway at Los Rodeos Airport (now Tenerife North—Ciudad de La Laguna Airport) on the Spanish island of Tenerife. The incident occurred at 5:06 pm GMT (UTC +0) in dense fog, when KLM Flight 4805 initiated its take-off run, colliding with the starboard side of Pan Am Flight 1736 still on the runway. The impact and the resulting fire killed all 248 people on board the KLM plane and 335 of the 396 people on board the Pan Am plane, with only 61 survivors in the front section of the latter aircraft. With a total of 583 fatalities, the disaster is the deadliest accident in aviation history.

Norman Williams one of the survivors documented his story in a book entitled *Terror at Tenerife* co-written with George Otis. When he saw that he was going to die, in the midst of the commotion, He shouted, "Jesus", and immediately 2 angels entered the aircraft, one unfastened his seat belt and both them lifted him to the door, opened the door threw him out and closed the door. He survived despite intense fire and surrounded by fatalities. He described his survival as a result of his faith and prayer, specifically citing:

Isaiah 43:2b:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

What has been the experience of your faith?

2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

There are moments when we must choose to walk boldly in faith, no matter the circumstances we face. Sometimes, this means standing alone, trusting God even when no one else shares our confidence.

Hebrews: 11:1-2

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

Faith apprehends what is unseen and brings it into reality. It calls those things that are not as though they are. Faith is persistent choosing to believe even when circumstances seem impossible.

Hebrews: 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

It is impossible to please God without faith. God delights in those who trust Him, and He responds to genuine faith with His presence and action.

Mark 11:24

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have receive it, and it will be yours.

The key here is to believe that you have received it.

Questions

1. What do you do when your faith is tested? Because it will be.
2. In which areas of your life do you find it difficult walk in faith? Friend. I have no faith for that, but I will pray that God will give you the desires of your heart.
3. Are your thoughts and words aligned to the Word of God?

4. Power of the Holy Spirit

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of power. Sometimes we underestimate the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Zechariah 4:6

This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel. Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

In the face of opposition.

Ephesians 1: 18-20

18 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, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

God has always desired that we know and walk in the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit. Not a lesser power but the very might power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead. When we walk in this power, it shifts our faith, our hope our expectancy in God.

Story:

Heard a story from a preacher. An accident had occurred in his country and three people died. Dead bodies lying on the side of the road. On two of the dead bodies were lapel badges on their chest written “Jesus Saves”. So, this man of God thought no. What if these two guys were first generation Christians in their families and now what will their families say, seeing them dead but with these badges written “Jesus saves”. Would this not be perceived as a challenge to the very nature and character of Christ, as well as to the integrity of the Gospel message? So, he knelt down and took hold of these two bodies by the side of the road and cried out to the Lord that their lives be restored and they came back to life. Jesus does save even from death.

This is the very reason for our hope in Him.

Another story – baby on his shoulders.

You see we can say are these are cases happening elsewhere in our generation but we too we have the same resurrection power of the Holy Spirit working in us and my prayer is that we start to see these miracles in our midst and Church.

John 14:12

12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

The Holy Spirit is the primary strength behind our every move. The Holy Spirit is the agent who transforms our lives and causes us to overflow with hope, giving strength beyond human capacity.

Ephesians 3:16:

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

He strengthens our inner being with might. And it is from that inner being that true life flows.

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses of the Gospel and as we do this our hope in Christ grows as we see more and more lives transformed.

Romans 8:26

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Acts 4:31

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Questions:

1. In what areas of your life have you relied on the arm of the flesh instead of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you exhibit the fullness of the fruit of the Holy in your walk with Christ?
3. In what areas of your life do you need to allow the Holy Spirit to have His way?

5. Abound in hope.

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Story

My sister resides in the UK with her daughter, having initially relocated on her own and later arranging for her daughter to join her a year afterward. However, during that period, UK immigration policies concerning single mothers seeking visas for their children had changed, becoming significantly more stringent and making the process far more challenging.

This was the most stressful season I had ever witnessed my sister endure. In response, I committed to praying for her case, asking that the application would be met with grace and favour. During one conversation, as I checked in on her, she admitted that her anxiety made it difficult even to pray. She said, 'I'll handle the paperwork—please, you do the praying. She approached the process with remarkable diligence, submitting more than thirty supporting documents to the Home Office. Together with my prayer partners, I interceded on her behalf, and, by God's grace, the application was ultimately successful.

Sometimes, **when we abound in hope we become conduits of hope in Christ to others.** There are people who will ride on your faith and belief that Christ hears prayers. So when we slacken in our relationship with God a lot is at stake.

Micah 7:7 (NIV)

But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior my God will hear me.

I pray that this is the place where we would reside, watching in hope for the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Sometimes when life happens it feel like we need that strength to be renewed everyday.

Psalm 25:5 (NIV)

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior and my hope is in you all day long.

Psalm 33:22

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You.

Psalm 63:5

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

Job 14:14

If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes.

Questions:

1. Are you overflowing in hope such that you've become a conduit of hope in Christ to others.
2. How steadfast is your hope in God, is it seasonal? Do you hope in Him all day long as David says?
3. What are the things that have become a hindrance to you abounding in hope?

6. Overflow with confidence in His promises.

Romans 15:13 (Amp)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

What are God's promises that you are holding onto in this season or year?

Caleb possessing the land.

Joshua 14:6

⁶Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the Lord said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. **⁷**I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. **⁸**Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. **⁹**So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.’ **¹⁰**And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. **¹¹**As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. **¹²**Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.”

¹³And Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. **¹⁴**Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel. **¹⁵**And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim).

Even 40 years later Caleb didn't forget.

2 Corinthians 1:20

20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

It is the promises that God makes in His Word that anchor our hope in Him. Without His Word we have nothing to live by, nothing to stand on.

2 Corinthians 7:1

7 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Abounding in hope does not exempt us from living holy lives. Holiness is what attracts the Holy Spirit that He may empower us to do mighty exploits in the Lord.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Joshua 1:9

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

What are your fears. What are you dismayed over?

Psalm 27:1

**The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Deuteronomy 7:9

9 “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Some practical steps to abounding in hope:

1. Everything begins with God. If there's no God, there's no hope. So, we start with God.
2. Believe in God's Word.
3. Have faith in God.
4. We're empowered by the Holy Spirit to live in hope. Seek the Holy Spirit and ask Him to be the dominant anointing in every aspect of your life.
5. Silence voices that are contrary to the Word of God.
6. Surround yourselves with those who speak life into situations.
7. Guard your joy and peace.
8. Some days will be good, other not, but remember that his compassions fail not they are new every morning.
9. You have to be intentional when it comes to abounding in hope.
10. God is on your side. So, remember that He is waiting for you relinquish your burdens to Him. So do so.

AMEN.