CONTEND:
Passionate prayer fuelled by holy discontent

Praying with Hope

[Lamentations 3:19-24 (NLT)]

READING

The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words.
I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.
Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:
The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.
Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.
I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!

Reminder

- Contending prayer addresses challenging situations and competes to achieve a victory.
- It is asserting our faith and believing in God's truth. It is not passive or ritualistic or casual or apologetic or apathetic. It is assertive, expecting a response with confidence in God to act.

Message Summary

- Even Jeremiah, known as the miserable prophet, continued to place his hope in God.
- Praying with hope goes beyond having a glass half full attitude to achieve peace in a storm.
- We can contend by praying with hope and giving thanks for the worries that did not materialise.
- The Bible records many examples of people who never gave up hope despite dire circumstances.

- When our faith enables us to maintain hope and peace in a storm it is a witness to others.
- As believers we are called to bring hope and light to others, reassuring them of Jesus' power.
- Despite the many problems affecting the world today and threatening future generations,
- we can provide a hopeful witness to those in dark places who seem to have lost hope.

Questions/Discussion Points

- Are you a person whose frame of mind is usually glass half full or glass half empty? Why?
- What is your overall record regarding what you have worried about and hoped for in the past?
- What are your current hopes and worries for the world and for your personal circumstances?
- Who do you have an opportunity to bring hope to? How best do you think you can do this?

We believe our God-given vision is see:
thriving communities springing up,
where everyone can belong and find hope in Jesus.
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Other Quotes

- *"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*
- *"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us." Romans 5:5*
- *Hope is seeing now in the light of eternity, of understanding what is, in the knowledge of what will be. Hope is the frame of mind of those who choose to believe in God's promise that one day all will be made new. Hope isn't passive. Hope is the out of balance runner, who has to push forwards to stop from falling". Methodist Minister*
- *"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on, in spite of it all. I still have a dream. Martin Luther King*

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