

When All Seems Lost

*“Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, and left his servant there. So he went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And **he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”**” I Kings 19:1-4*

I. Introduction

II. Observations When Hope Seems Lost

- ✓ Our _____ become skewed
- ✓ There comes a distortion as to the purpose of our _____
- ✓ A _____ begins to win the day

III. The Vital Importance of Preserving Hope Amid Our Battles

- HOPE PRODUCES THE COURAGE REQUIRED TO FACE LIFE CHALLENGES
- HOPE IS ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC THAT THINGS WILL WORK OUT
- HOPE HELPS INITIATE NEW STRATEGIES
- HOPE HELPS YOU STAY IN THE GAME UNTIL A SOLUTION IS FOUND

IV. The Seven Key Things to Remember When All Seems Lost

1. Maintain your trust that the Lord _____ than we do

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)

2. Continue to believe that God’s Word for your life can _____

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)

“The LORD said to Elijah, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha . . . you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.” I Kings 19:15-16

Note: God’s remedy for Elijah’s disillusionment and fear was continued purpose!
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3. Remember that though times of darkness may indeed be scary, we _____
"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6 (ESV)

4. In times of struggle and confusion, be mindful to _____
*"Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.'" **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.**" Job 1:20-22 (NASB)*

*"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it (to talk) will eat its fruit."
Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)*

5. Never lose sight of the fact that Christ's victory is _____
*"But thanks be to God! **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**" I Cor.15:57*

*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons...will be able to **separate us from the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39*

6. Always be encouraged by the fact that God always has _____ *"The LORD will go forth like a warrior; He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. **He will prevail against His enemies.**" Isaiah 42:13 (NASB)*

7. When knocked down, each of us must determine to _____
"For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze." Psalm 18:28-34 (NKJV)

Don't resign, don't fold, and don't quit. The King always has one more move!

IV. Final Thoughts for Times of Intense Struggle

- **Reframe your struggle** - What feels like defeat may just be a set-up for deliverance.
- **Rely on God's wisdom** - His ways are higher, His perspective always greater.
- **Rest in Christ's victory** - It's already won.
- **Reignite your faith** - Get back in the game with a renewed resolve, as a winner!

"You're never out of the fight"---Navy Seals Motto

"When it's dark enough, is when you can see the stars most vividly!"

ANSWER KEY:

II. Observations When Hope Seems Lost

Perspectives----efforts----spirit of fear

IV. The Seven Key Things to Remember When All Seems Lost

1. sees farther and deeper
2. never fail or be stolen from you
3. never walk alone
4. watch your words
5. OUR victory
6. one last move
7. get back in the game