

I. When I don't know what to do, I know exactly what to do

- A. **Power Point! Every WORD spoken by GOD has POWER in it!**
- B. Why dare to hope?
- Many of us are right there, right now
 - Scriptures are full of authenticity in regards to your situation
 - As people of faith, sometimes we miss or overlook the process and want to skip, ignore or try to bypass the ugly parts of life
- C. David was a man after God's own heart, and yet I have never read of someone who brought to the Lord pure and authentic questions born out of the pain and circumstances surrounding him

Psalms 6:6-7 (NLT) I am worn out from sobbing. All night I flood my bed with weeping, drenching it with my tears. My vision is blurred by grief; my eyes are worn out because of all my enemies.

II. Pain is not GOOD, but pain tells us there is something wrong

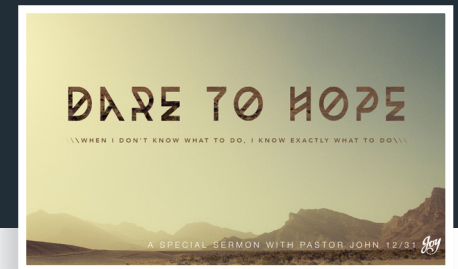
- A. We need to at a minimum acknowledge, if not embrace the pain
- God is GOOD. He is not the author of evil, betrayal, death, or anything dark
 - He will take all things and work them together for our good, but we must know what to do

Proverbs 13:12 says hope deferred makes the heart sick. We have people all around us walking around with heart disease, and they don't know what to do.

- B. Even David experienced hopelessness and painful situations: death threats, loss of a child, another son who attempted a coup on him and his reign
- C. The situations you find yourself in that bring pain, emptiness, or barrenness are often no fault of our own. Such was the case with the David and King Saul situation:
- David did nothing but serve the King, and yet not only did the king try to murder David, he had other people out to kill him as well
- D. Jesus faced all of the same tests and trials of this life that we do (I guarantee you, it was not his fault)

Isaiah 53:3a (NLT) He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

Hebrews 4:15 (MSG) We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin.



- E. His own cousin was murdered; experienced the death of his earthly father; disregarded by those he only wanted to save – and that is all before we even get to the physical death he would suffer at the hands of his own creation (mankind)
- F. Moses – he had completely given up on his dreams and callings and went into the desert to live out his days; exiled to the desert and found himself at a mountain called Horeb (dry, desolate, nothingness). He was tending to the animals and was in a **DUNG place**
- Sometimes it is exactly a result of some of the choices we make, things we did do, or did not do
 - When the situation is because of my decisions, my actions or my inactions, that is when I really could enter into hope deferred
- G. Jeremiah – The Weeping Prophet:

Lamentations 3:16-20 (NLT) He has made me chew on gravel. He has rolled me in the dust. Peace has been stripped away, and I have forgotten what prosperity is. I cry out, “My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the LORD is lost!” The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

- Your vision may get blurred by grief
- You may end up in a dung place
- You may have no fault in any of it and yet it is happening to you
- You may have been the author of it all
- Whatever it is, when I don't know what to do, I know EXACTLY WHAT TO DO!

III. I WILL REMEMBER!

Isaiah 17:9-10 (MEV) In that day his strong cities shall be as a forsaken bough and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the sons of Israel; and there shall be a desolation. Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation and have not been mindful of the rock of your strength,

Lamentations 3:21-22 (NLT) Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease.

**When I don't know what to DO, I know EXACTLY what to do:
I will remember HIS FAITHFUL LOVE and HIS NEVER ENDING MERCY!**

- God knows how to bring dead things back to life
- God knows how to take ugly and make it beautiful once again
- God has declared things over you as his child

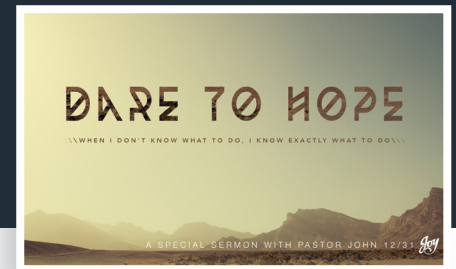


CHRISTIAN CENTER

Dare to Hope

December 31, 2023

Pastor John Jose



- A. It is time for the body of Christ to live differently based on his Word and His promises over us
 - He did not die, conquer death, hell and the grave and come back from the dead to be seated at the Father's side and begin his never ending Kingdom so I could just stay the same, or live like those without hope live
- B. My cry of **faith** is not compelling a reluctant Lord to do something, rather me **laying hold of His willingness!**

Psalm 84:10-12 (MSG) One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches. I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin. All sunshine and sovereign is GOD, generous in gifts and glory. He doesn't scrimp with his traveling companions. It's smooth sailing all the way with GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.