

RELENTLESS, CONTAGIOUS HOPE TRANSFORMATION TABLE TALK (LESSON ONE)

HOPE IS BELIEF IN ACTION. HOPE IS CONFIDENCE IN GOD THAT THE FUTURE IS GOING TO BE BETTER THAN THE PRESENT AND THAT TOGETHER GOD HAS GIVEN US THE POWER TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE IT SO.

I. Introduction:

A. Some key goals of “transformation tables”.

- To let God transform us by writing His values deep in our hearts, so that those values grow in our family and team, so together we transform the world. Jesus equipped his disciples to change the world, not by first giving techniques, but by giving values. He was saying if you build a culture of the kingdom, Heaven will move through us in unstoppable ways.
- To intentionally put people together to form the core of ministry teams (life groups...). These values will provide the foundation for the successful development of ministries that will multiply and transform the world.

B. Our first value is relentless, contagious hope because it creates the atmosphere for the miraculous to continually happen. So much of change and transformation is about atmospheres and environments.

Hope is belief in action:

- It is what God can and will do, and who He says we are and will become because of Him.
- It is belief in what we must do and why.
- It is belief in what we can be and do together.

II. Caleb is the poster child of what contagious hope is all about. (Joshua 14:6-13 NKJV)

A. Observations of what Caleb’s hope did for him

- It kept Caleb from letting the negative judgments and atmosphere of those around him stop him from believing and giving up his vision.
- It kept him from quitting when his promise was delayed 40 years.
- It helped him refuse to settle for mediocrity and accept anything less than God’s best.

(Hope drives you to believe that you will always be the exception; you won’t receive just what is available but will claim what others thought was impossible.)

- It released power for spiritual warfare to overcome every giant.

- It empowered him to leave a legacy. His ceiling became the floor on which his kids stood. He created an atmosphere for his kids to marry well and break the rules and traditions culture had set upon them.

B. Some critical truths about hope

1. Hope comes when we are stirred and convinced by something greater than our fears and circumstances. It is driven by people, who deep inside never forget their “Why”.

“Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.” St. Augustine of Hippo

2. Hope is more than “hype” or wishful thinking. It is even more than optimism. It is never a passive virtue, always an active one. Hope is absolute determination that with God we can and will see things get better. It is the morale of heaven in the soul of a person on earth.

The difference between low-hope people and high-hope people

LOW HOPE PEOPLE

Avoid problems
Focus on symptoms
Feed their fear
Make excuses
Get tired
Give up

HIGH HOPE PEOPLE

Engage in problem solving
Focus on solutions
Feed their faith
Choose to be inspired
Word energized
Never give up

Hope is the fuel of the Holy Spirit in your tank. People serve God to the level of their hope.

Dale Carnegie said,

“Most of the great things that have been accomplished in the world were accomplished by people who refused to quit trying when it seemed like there was no hope of them succeeding.”

3. Hope is what expands the borders of our heart to dream and ask beyond what seems reasonable or possible. It doesn’t deny the facts; it just doesn’t let the facts define what is possible or not possible with God. It refuses to look back and judge the future based on the past.

Nido Qubein said, “Your present circumstances don’t determine how far you can go they merely determine where you start.”

4. Hope attracts and inspires people to join together in a vision beyond themselves, to expect that they can do together with others what they never would've dreamed they could've done before.

“Leaders are dealers in hope.” -Napoleon

5. Hope comes from cultivating God-beliefs in us.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 NKJV)

Anywhere in your life that you feel or are living hopeless, it is because of a lie that contradicts what God says you can expect for your life.

Jesus taught that change doesn't come by trying to change our behaviors but by focusing on partnering with God in changing our beliefs.

If we align our beliefs with His beliefs, our attitudes and behaviors will eventually take care of themselves.

“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.” (Joshua 14:7 NKJV)

Caleb didn't speak what he saw with his eyes but spoke what he believed in his heart.

III. Two ways to create a culture of hope

A. Our declarations.

James teaches us that our tongues will steer our heart and determine what our spirit, soul, and body can receive. We learn that our tongues can kill hope like it did with the 10 spies who brought a negative report. Our praise, thanksgiving, and declarations open our hearts to the Holy Spirit to fuel us with hope.

Declaration: (Have everyone read together)

We are a congregation of relentless hope givers. Our hope is contagious and powerful. We believe we can light a candle of hope in even the darkest of situation and it will change. We believe there is always hope in God. There is no such thing as a hopeless situation only people who have given up hope. That will never be us! We believe God is fighting for us, that He has the last word, and as we are on His side the outcomes of the painful situations we see and are going through are already fixed in our favor. We relentlessly believe that anything He allows is so that His works might be manifested for good and

blessing. He makes even his enemies a footstool for his feet, even the defiance of man shall praise Him.

We have hope that fuels us to refuse to quit until we see the goodness of the promises of God fulfilled not only on our behalf but also on the behalf of those we serve. We won't, we can't, we shall never give up until we see God's justice and compassion prevail.

We are united in hope. We are absolutely convinced that we have been brought together for such a time as this, to do what God has called us to do victoriously for His glory to radically change our world forever!

B. Encouragement.

Our hope becomes an atmosphere in our families and sphere of service. We are committed to being radical, intentional encouragers where there is never a discouraging word, only words that give hope and inspire courage in those we serve.

Quotes that portray encouragement:

“There are high spots in all of our lives and most of them have come about through encouragement from someone else.” -George M. Adams

“People will go farther than they think they can when someone else thinks they can.”

“The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but reveal to him his own.” -Benjamin Disraeli

“How do you identify someone who needs encouragement? That person is breathing.” -Truett Cathy

Things to know to encourage people:

- People are insecure; give them confidence.
- People like to feel special; sincerely compliment them.
- People are looking for a better tomorrow; tell them what they can hope for.
- People need to be understood; really listen to them.
- People lack direction; help them navigate.
- People are focused on themselves; ask about their needs first.
- People are downhearted; speak encouraging hope to them.
- People need God; pray for them.

- People need meaningful relationships; invite them to be part of your community.
- People need models to follow them; be an example and let them come with you on the journey.

Reflect and Respond

1. Choose something you underlined that was important to you. Take one minute to tell everyone what you chose and why it is important to you?
2. On a scale of 1-10, what rating would you give yourself when it comes to living in and radiating hope?
3. What benefits would you receive by improving?
4. Can you think of someone who models this to you? What stands out about them?
5. What are the lies or misbeliefs you've believed that are hope quenchers in your life?
6. What would Jesus want to say about that?
7. What actions will you take this week to shift your environments from hopeless to hope?