

DAY 20 - HOPE THAT TESTIFIES

Core Value: Mission



2 Corinthians 4:8–10 (CSB)

“We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body.”

Romans 5:3–5 (CSB)

“We also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.”

1 Peter 3:15 (CSB)

“Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

Hope formed through suffering becomes a powerful witness to the faithfulness of God.

Paul never suggests that suffering automatically produces hope. What produces hope is **suffering endured in dependence on God**. That distinction matters. Many people suffer. Few suffer with visible trust. And it is that difference that makes endurance missional.

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul stacks contrast upon contrast: afflicted but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair, struck down but not destroyed. These phrases describe lives under pressure that somehow remain intact. Paul explains why—“so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body.”

Suffering becomes testimony when it reveals a sustaining power that does not originate within us.

Romans 5 describes hope as something *produced* over time through endurance and proven character. This is not theoretical hope. It is hope that has been tested, refined, and embodied. People notice that kind of hope—not because it is loud, but because it is resilient.

Peter reminds believers to be ready to explain the hope within them. Notice what prompts the question: not success, comfort, or ease—but hope that remains visible when those things are absent. A life that rejoices in suffering—not superficially, but faithfully—raises honest curiosity.

Mission does not require that we explain our suffering. It requires that we **live with hope in the midst of it**. Our endurance becomes an invitation. Our trust becomes a testimony. Our weakness becomes a window through which others glimpse the life of Christ.

Suffering, when surrendered to God, becomes a witness that points beyond pain to promise.

Core Value Practice — Mission

Practice visible hope, not forced explanations.

Today's practice focuses on *how* you live, not *what* you say.

Practice Steps

1. Reflect on how you typically respond to hardship in front of others.
2. Ask:
 - Where is God forming hope in me through suffering?
 - How might that hope be visible without explanation?
3. Choose one way to respond today with quiet faithfulness—patience, integrity, gratitude, or perseverance.

Hope is often most convincing when it is lived, not announced.

Reflection Questions

1. How does knowing your endurance can point others to Christ change how you view suffering?
2. What kind of hope do you think others see in you during difficult seasons?
3. What fears keep you from believing God can use your suffering missionally?

Daily Action Challenge: Let hope be seen.

Today, choose one intentional response to difficulty that reflects trust in God rather than frustration or despair.

Afterward, write:

“Today, hope testified through...”

Guided Prayer

God,

I do not want my suffering to be wasted. Form in me a hope that endures, a faith that remains visible, and a trust that points beyond myself. Help me carry hardship in a way that reflects Your life at work in me. Use my weakness to display Your strength, and my endurance to invite others to consider You. Let my life testify to the hope that does not disappoint. Amen.