

“Healthy Hope”

Joel 2:12-13a

July 12, 2020

INTRO: Let me ask you a LOADED question to begin...

- *What kind of shape are you in?*
- I mean, just **how “healthy” are you?**
- Don’t assume anything here... let me explain...
- What if *“I think”* and *“I feel”* don’t really matter?

I’m going to show you today, through the truth and love of God’s Word, HOW & why you should get spiritually healthy :-)

CONTEXT:

1. Series (patterns of & pointers to hope)

Hope is one of the Bible’s greatest patterns - JDP

2. Sermons (previous Holy & Healing hope...)

3. Scripture (today’s hope is **HEALTHY Hope!**)

i. Joel’s pattern: *Realize, Remember, Respond*

ii. **BE ready!** *“the Day of the LORD is NEAR!”*

BIG IDEA:

Healthy hope is the fruit of faithful obedience AND righteous, repetitious, repentance and refinement!

PREVIEW:

1. REALIZE
2. REMEMBER
3. RESPOND
4. REND
5. RETURN

I. REALIZE: Holy Hope m

“Yet, even now”

- God is sovereign
- God is speaking
- **You need a MIRACLE...**

Holy hope is **IN** the Creator, **NOT** the created!
Holy hope is **FOR** the Creator... and **NOT** for the created...

Holy hope is greater than every “even-if.” -JDP

Remember holy hope lies at the center of the biblical gospel
1 Corinthians 13:13

II. REMEMBER: Healing Hope m

NOTE: Healing hope begins with biblical hopelessness. -JDP

- Remember whose speaking...
- Remember who God is & what He did/does
- Remember who you are & what you can't do
- **Remember Christ alone can give MIRACLES!**

“Yet, even now...”
“Declares the LORD...”

Faith gives birth to hope & hope nurtures faith

Ezekiel 36:26

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove your heart of stone and
give you a (new) heart of flesh.*

T/S: ***Everything hinges on your view of Scripture.**
Either Scripture will be the lens through which you view
the world, or the world (science, politics, worldview, etc)
will be the lens through which you view Scripture.
Ultimately one or the other will be your authority.*

- Dustin Bengé

III. RESPOND

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“Yet, even now...”

“Declares the LORD...

*Return to Me - with ALL your heart...with fasting,
with weeping, with mourning, and...”*

- A. Remorse
- B. Repent
- C. Return

1. Return with ALL your heart

T/S: Here’s where we go from healing to healthy...

***Healthy Hope is the biblical church living out
the missional Gospel.***

- Define **Healthy...** “not diseased or infected,” “sound”
- Define **Sick....** “spiritually or morally unsound or corrupt,” & “affected with a disease or infection”

- **Sick hope disobeys, disregards & disrespects God & His Word, will, & ways...**
 - Self-**absorbed** hope
 - Self-**preserving** hope
 - Self-**gratifying** hope
 - Self-**aggrandizing** hope
 - Self-**deceiving** hope
 - Self-**affirming** hope

To be CLEAR... not all unhealthiness or sickness is lostness...
Some past heroes of the faith had horrific seasons of
unhealthiness... **Sickness is often simply a sinful stumble.**

- Noah got drunk-naked
- Moses murdered
- David shacked up & went to Ziklag
- Abraham gave Sarah to wrong-minded king
- John the Baptist asked heart-sick questions
- Thomas doubted
- Peter denied Christ 3X & then caved in Galatia...
- Paul did & didn't do stuff... per Romans 7

2. *Return with fasting*

- a. intimacy,
- b. insight,
- c. inspiration
- d. instruction

3. *Return with weeping*

- a. actual,
- b. active,
- c. affectual remorse

4. *Return with mourning*

- a. teaching,
- b. training,
- c. transformative repentance

5. *Return with more... “and”*

IV. REND

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*“rend your heart,”
“not your garments.”*

- A. **Rend** = rip open your heart before God!
- a. Tare your core, not your clothes
 - b. Break your heart down... to build it up.
 - c. **This is supernatural vs. superficial!!!**
 - d. This is a heartfelt want-to for sanctification!

Rending = about worship, work, warfare, & witnessing

- B. **Rend** is **NOT** *bend, mend,* or **pretend!**

Vitamins for Victory

(Inspired by Dr. David Slamp's "Spiritual Growth Survey")

1. **CONSISTENT BIBLICAL WORSHIP** Hebrews 10:24-25
 - a. Consistent contributing of holistic praise & worship within your local church
 - b. Consistent, personal, passionate-worship expressed vertically & horizontally
 - c. Consistent BE-ing from the inside out; walking your worship day in & day out
2. **TRANSFORMATIVE BIBLE STUDY** 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - a. Understanding the Bible's Source & structure, purpose & promises
 - b. Learning how to read the Bible for impact & faith-strengthening
 - c. Growing in your understanding of the Bible's context, content & commands
 - d. Reading & meditating more & more in/on the Bible's micro & macro truths
 - e. Becoming a Bible-studying disciple... who disciples others in Bible-studying

3. **SPIRIT-LEAD INTERNAL-DISCIPLESHIP** Ephesians 5:15

- a. Maturing in Prayer & Grace through faith-filled obedience
- b. Maturing in Purity & Repentance through faith-filled obedience
- c. Maturing in Power & Forgiveness through faith-filled obedience
- d. Maturing in Proclaiming & Ambassadorship through faith-filled obedience
- e. Maturing in Compassion & Cross-carrying through faith-filled obedience
- f. Maturing in Passion & Discernment through faith-filled obedience
- g. Maturing in Perseverance & Spiritual Warfare through faith-filled obedience
- h. Maturing in Love & Joy through faith-filled obedience
- i. Maturing in Peace & Patience through faith-filled obedience
- j. Maturing in Kindness & Goodness through faith-filled obedience
- k. Maturing in Gentleness & Faithfulness through faith-filled obedience
- l. Maturing in Self-control & Humility through faith-filled obedience

4. **BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP** Matthew 6:33

- a. First & foremost, your time is faithfully surrendered to the Lord's calling
- b. First & foremost, your talent is faithfully surrendered to the Lord's calling
- c. First & foremost, your treasure is faithfully surrendered to the Lord's calling
- d. First & foremost, your LIFE is faithfully surrendered to the Lord's calling

5. **MISSION-COMMITTED LIVING/LIFESTYLE** Acts 1:8

- a. You personally submit & commit to ALL God's Word, God's will, & God's ways
- b. You personally submit & commit to the Great Commandments & Commission
- c. You personally submit & commit to contributing locally, regionally & globally
- d. You personally submit & commit to perpetually submitting & committing...
- e. You are learning, loving & living who & how the Lord has called you to BE
- f. You are accepting the privilege & responsibility for your personal ministries
- g. You are investing yourself deeply into the calling/mission God has given you

6. **BE-ING THE CHURCH** (*EKKLESSIA in KOINONIA*) Acts 2:41-47

- a. BE-ing the biblical Church calls for both believing & behaving biblically...
- b. BE-ing ekklessia means "BE-ing the Church" – the miraculous, family of God
- c. BE-ing in koinonia means "BE-ing supernaturally unified" in & for Christ
- d. BE-ing ekklessia in koinonia is your biblical blessing, mission, & ministry
- e. BE-ing ekklessia in koinonia is summarized in: "together/homothoomadon"

7. **ACTIVE PASSIONATE WITNESSING** Matthew 28:18-20

- a. You pray for opportunities to share the gospel with a diversity of people
- b. You empathetically refuse to see or treat people like inferiors or "projects"
- c. You look for & maximize your potential opportunities to go fishing for men
- d. You intentionally improve your capabilities to share the gospel with others
- e. You invest in the starting & building of God-honoring, missional relationships

8. **HOLISTIC CHRIST-LIKE ATTITUDES** Philippians 1:27
a. You aim to take every thought captive & allow God's Word to filter it/them
b. You aim to align your attitudes & actions with God's will... per God's Word
c. You aim to think thru & process every circumstance & challenge God's way
9. **LIVING DISTINCT FROM THE WORLD** James 4:4
a. You know the "world" is where Satan & the flesh fight against God's ways
b. You know that God's holy, biblical-standards & definitions are now yours too
c. You know that God wants you to live as a contrasting witness in this world
d. You know that Christ is to be seen in & at the core of your cultural contrast
e. You know that living distinct from the world will come at a very real cost
10. **JOYFULLY SERVING THE WORLD** Mark 10:45
a. Your goal in Christ-like service is the glory of God & the advance of His gospel
b. Your epitomizing of Christ-likeness is in your loving, joyful, selfless-service
c. Your methods of service will be biblically-affirmed in their aim & application
11. **MISSIONAL & RELATIONAL-DISCIPLESHIP** John 20:21
a. Your mission is a personal, life-long journey to mature in Christ-likeness
b. Your mission is to bring God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers
c. Your mission is to invest in relationships that inform, inspect & inspire!
d. Your mission shares God's truth in love locally, regionally, & globally
e. Your mission is to make disciples who make disciples who make disciples
f. Your mission is lived out in grace-based, loving, life-on-life relationships
g. Your mission is to make disciplined-warriors while winning spiritual warfare

V. **RETURN**

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“Return to the LORD your God...”

Here's the key to healthy hope: **refining repetition!**

Returning (again) = purging, purifying, empowering

➤ See the PATTERN:

- **Return**
- **Rend**
- **Return**

BIG IDEA:

*Healthy hope is the fruit of faithful obedience AND righteous, **repetitious**, repentance and refinement!*

*Healthy hope LIVES perpetually between faith and love...
it's street name is obedience. - JDP*

Healthy hope lives out:

- **Beatitudes:**
 - Poor in spirit
 - Mourn
 - Meek
 - Hunger & thirst after righteousness
 - Merciful
 - Pure in heart
 - Peace-makers
 - Persecuted for righteousness (3X)
 -
- **Armor of God:**

- Helmet of Salvation
- Breastplate of Righteousness
- Belt of Truth
- Shield of Faith
- Cleats of Peace
- Sword of the Spirit
- Cleats of Peace
- Spirit empowered Prayer
- **5 fold Ephesians 4 Leadership**
 - Apostle
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Shepherds
 - Teachers
- **Fruit of the Spirit**
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Goodness
 - Gentleness
 - Faithfulness
 - Self-control
- **5 Great C's**
 - Great Commandments
 - Great Commission
 - Great Combat
 - Great Christian
 - Great Church

Healthy Hope lives in key, koinonia relationships:

- Personal
- Partnership
- Pods (peers & progressive)
- Posey
- Platoon
- Peoples

Healthy hope, like all aspects of Christ-like love, is NOT mechanical... This may bless some of you in a life changing way... Make no mistake, while healthy hope (and love for that matter) include & involve some mechanics (choices and actions), they are both so, so much more than merely going thru the motions. Think about it... a love without heart is a lie. In the same way, hope without Christ-likeness is heresy... BTW... unhealthy, hope-perverting heresies breed all kinds of brokenness & hypocrisies. -JDP

Healthy hope is NOT perfect... but it is passionate...

Healthy hope IS sharing hope... in life on life relationships.

Healthy hope lives in active, ongoing, and daily repentance!

Healthy hope is BE-ing yourself in Christ!

Healthy hope literally LIVES with a Christ-like perspective & POWER!

Healthy Hope is Christ-centered, gospel-driven, others-saturated, obedience-delivering, and faithfully displayed... all in an Acts 1:8 posture of Spirit-led truth in love! - JDP

Healthy hope lives looking for persons of peace.

Healthy hope lives loving & serving the least of these

Healthy hope lives like Christ, making disciples who make disciples who make disciples...

Healthy hope lives like a soldier... an Olympic athlete... a dedicated farmer... (2 Timothy 2:1-6)

Healthy hope declares, exhorts, rebukes, and lives with such Christ-given authority that no one can disregard them (Titus 2:15)

Healthy hope lives... taking every thought captive.

Healthy hope lives rejoicing & praying always...

Healthy Hope has a degree of purity that practicality & pragmatics do not understand, nor submit to... In other words... per GOD's Word, will, and ways, there are a great many things that unhealthy pragmatism often does... that healthy Christ-likeness will not do. - JDP

Healthy hope can handle the hurt...

Unhealthy hope is living with a false sense of confidence... it is like swimming in a croc infested river!

Healthy hope wants Christ to worship...

Unhealthy hope wants a church for “fellowship.”

When your fellowship defines your worship, you’re sick.

When your worship defines our fellowship you’re healthy!

Healthy Hope brings compassionate confrontation...

Healthy Hope IS:

- Miraculous
- Messianic
- Missional
- Biblical
- Bold
- Beautiful
- Christ-like
- Cross-carrying
- Compassionate
- Selfless
- Serving
- Sacrificial
- Humble
- Help-filled
- Holistic
- Hearty

- Learning
- Loving
- Living

Healthy Hope is unified AND unifying hope... see John 17

How important is your church?

1. It/*they* teach you the truth.
2. It/*they* hold you accountable.
3. It/*they* provide sweet fellowship.
4. It/*they* help you profess your faith.
5. It/*they* accept you as family.
6. It/*they* aid your sanctification.
7. It/*they* confront your sin.
8. It/*they* keep you God-focused.

- Dustin Bengé

Healthy Hope is a supernatural witness, whereas worldly wishing reflects & reveals a superficial cancer.



One FAITH. One FAMILY. One FOCUS.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will BE My witnesses (locally, regionally, and globally)." - Acts 1:8

One Question: **WHAT DO YOU WANT?**
 One Offer: **COME AND SEE.**
 One Promise: **TRUTH IN LOVE!**

Our Truth-in-Love Distinctives: We are...

1. Responding to grace & repenting of sin...
2. Trusting the Bible & obeying God's Word...
3. Growing in-Christ & living Spirit-led...
4. Praying for guidance & following by faith...
5. Dying to self & carrying our cross...
6. BE-ing the Church & loving one another...(*truly loving* one another)
7. Equipping the saints & exemplifying supernatural unity...
8. Ministering as ambassadors & discerning matters shrewdly...
9. Worshipping God vertically & experiencing Him horizontally...
10. Proclaiming the Gospel (*no matter what*) & fishing for men...
11. Making disciplined-warriors & winning spiritual-warfare...
12. Loving our King & serving His kingdom!

Healthy Hope is a supernatural witness, whereas worldly wishing reflects & reveals a superficial cancer.

Healthy hope compels with The Gospel...
Unhealthy hope attracts with worldly wishes.

Hope Happens Here!

CLOSE:

Closing check on conviction...

*How spiritually healthy is the heart of your
Time,
Talent,
and Treasure?*

Let's PRAY!

VIDEO: *"Rack of Glory"* (Irish Elk - Ludy)