



SHEROES & CHAMPIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT - 2004

SHEROES HOPE IN GOD

The Book Of Romans - Women's Discipleship Group

Terri McFaddin Series #3 Lesson #2

Scripture Focus: *Who contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." (Romans 4:18)*

Key Word: **Hope** (Greek – Elpizo) to demonstrate confidence in the expectation of a favorable outcome.

OPENING STATEMENT:

In order to become a woman who is a champion of the faith, you must first learn that even when the circumstances of your life are contrary to hope – like Father Abraham, you must continue to hope. You can only find the strength to continue by believing in the promises of God's Word. When we learn to believe the Word of God in spite of our circumstances, the Lord calls it righteousness. *Being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:21-22).*

Based on the 4th chapter of Romans, I want to encourage you to take the following steps to become a "shero" by believing God:

1. Treat things that do not exist as though they do exist. Even when things that frighten you in the shadows or in movies do not really exist you treat them as though they do by feeling very afraid, anxious even screaming out loud. Why not treat the good things that you hope for as though they really exist and become joyful and happy. *Romans 4:17 – As it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations" in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.*
2. Even when everything is against you, continue to hope. It's not over, until it's over! In 2004, the Lakers basketball team was loosing to the Spurs. With four-tenths of a second left to play they scored a final 3 points and won the game. They won because *against hope – they continued to hope.* *Romans 4:18 – Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations.*
3. Feed your faith so it doesn't become weak. Faith is alive within you and therefore it must be fed in order to stay alive. The best diet to keep your faith strong is prayer, reading God's promises in His Word and fellowship with fellow Christians who can stand with you in faith. *Romans 4:19-20 Without weakening in his faith, (Abraham) faced the fact that his body was as good as dead... Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God...*

4. Recognize that when you continue to stand you bring glory to God.
The Bible tells us in Romans 5:5 that hope does not disappoint. But in order to win, we must continue to stand in faith. What you hope for will come “if” you don’t give up. Those who boldly stand in faith, bring glory and honor to God by demonstrating that the Word of God “works!” *Romans 4:20-21 Abraham was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*

OBSERVATION:

1. Find 3 examples of women in the Bible who continued to hope in the face of negative circumstances.

2. According to Romans 4:19, what were the obstacles to Abraham’s hope?

INTERPRETATION:

1. In Romans 4:17, what is meant by “...and calls those things which do not exist as though they did”?

2. Read Romans 4:2 and explain why we cannot be “justified by works”?

