

# Hope Is a Building Block



## Serving Leaders in Ministry

[Excerpt from Holly Wagner: Guest blogger for \*Going Beyond\*](#)

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**Pastors:** Holly Wagner has chosen a life of hopeful anticipation, firmly rooted in her God and in His abundant love. As a pastor's wife, she knows full-well the challenges of life and ministry. Read about some of her determined steps for cultivating hope. Then share them with others who could use an extra dose of hope.

Eight and a half years ago I was diagnosed with breast cancer. There were moments of fear and hopelessness. The more I learned, the more I wondered if I had what it would take to get healthy. Could I handle the treatment? Could I make the necessary changes?

There were times when my marriage seemed to be in a hopeless place. We were so disconnected; we were just too different, and as I looked into the future, I was discouraged.

And honestly, there were moments in my parenting when hopelessness crept in. When the kids were really young, I wasn't sure I had enough time in the day! And then as they grew up, I really wondered if I had what it took to raise them to love God and fulfill their purpose. When they made mistakes, I took the failures personally (*very bad idea, btw!*) and felt hopeless.

In each of those three situations, I moved from feeling hopeless to being determined to have a life brimming over with hope. There was no magic pill I swallowed. It was a decision. I found Bible verses that related to each situation and spoke them out loud...lots of times. I spoke them until my feelings were no longer in control. It didn't happen overnight...but it did happen!





Here are some of the verses that might become some of the building blocks of your hope!

- *May the God of great hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!* (Romans 15:13 MSG).

As we build our lives, we must determine to be hope-filled. God builds our destiny in the same way buildings are built. It takes time. It doesn't go from steel frame to finished building in one day.

- And perhaps Jeremiah 29:11 is the blueprint for our lives. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"*

One of the dictionary definitions of hope is: to look forward to with desire and reasonable confidence. What are you expecting? How do you talk about your future? How do you talk about your spouse, your family members or your friends? How do you talk about the desires of your heart? What are you hoping for?

- *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV).

Hope has to do with what is unseen. Hope is the happy anticipation of what we don't have right now. Hope is not a feeling. Hope is a decision.

- *"You will call upon me, says the Lord. And I will be with you in trouble; I will deliver you, and honor you"* (Psalm 91:15).
- *"I will not leave you comfortless, says the Lord. I will come to you"* (John 14:18).
- *"The Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself"* (1 Samuel 12:22).
- *"I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you"* (Isaiah 42:6).



And finally, dear friend. Hope is a Person. The reason you and I can choose hope is that we choose to hope in the One who will be with us, deliver us, comfort and sustain us. We hope in the One who will never abandon us and will hold our hand through all of life's craziness. His name is Jesus. And I choose HIM. How about you?

