

Elevation Worship: Done

Elevation Worship: New Song (????) – Sing A Little Louder (???) – I am going to sing your victory (???)

Elevation Worship: Spectacular tribute to Moms on Mother's Day + Chris Brown Solo

Elevation Worship: It is So

Elevation Worship: "There Is A Cloud"

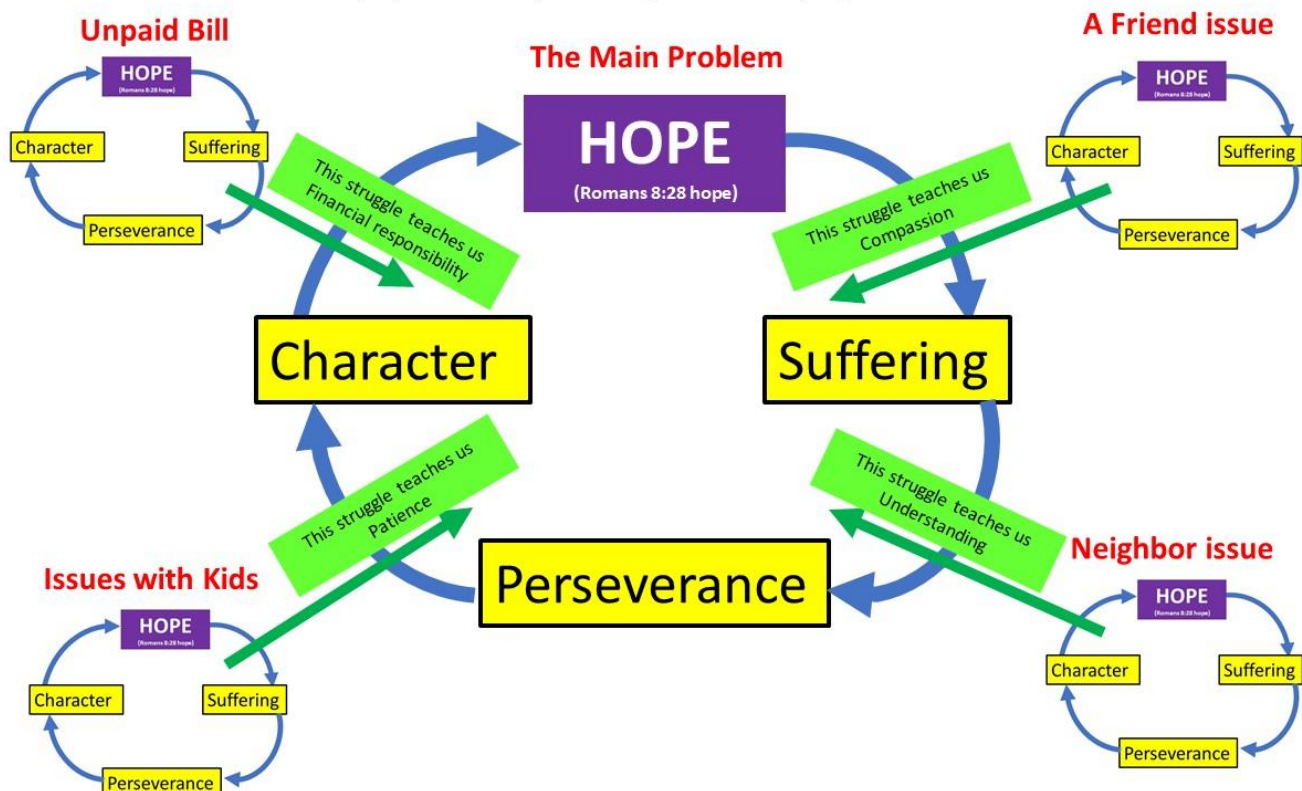
Scripture:

- Romans 5: Peace and Hope - **1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- John 9: John 9 New International Version (NIV): Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind: 9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. The Pharisees Investigate the Healing: 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. 17 Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." Spiritual Blindness: 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out (of the Synagogue), and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." 38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" 41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

- Hebrews 6:18: 16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to **take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.**
- Col 1:27: Paul's Labor for the Church: 24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations - but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. **27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**
- Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. - More Than Conquerors: 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holly Furtick sermon: "The Hope Cycle":

Holly Furtick's Hope Cycle – Never stop the cycle - Romans 5: 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.



- Happy Mother's Day.

- Opening prayer: The Holy Spirit is called our comforter - and it's also a function of his nature that he reminds us - Jesus said I'm going to give you the Holy Spirit - to bring you into remembrance - to remind you when Jesus spoke to us - and that is so powerful because the enemy is always reminding us of our regrets, our mistakes, and our sins - our shortcomings - and seasons of her life when we didn't get it right - and remind us of all the things that might happen to us in the future - it's the same negative spirit at work - keeping us stuck in what happened - or projecting disaster into our future - that may not be something that you ever have to deal with - at the same time that negative voice is speaking to you - there is another voice beneath the surface - and the Holy Spirit will remind you of today - I know it's noisy - it's a noisy world - and there are many negative thoughts that go through our mind - even during church - I want to bring you a great declaration today - that the world is settled in heaven forever. We need to be reminded of what God has already spoken about you - and into you - the things he said he would do for you - the ways that he has shown you - the ways in which he told you - in one of the things he reminds us of is that He has done it before. He killed a lion. He killed the bear. What's the difference today? It's just a bigger version of the same thing. We serve a great God - so let's remind ourselves again the word of God is settled forever and ever.
- Welcome to the pulpit Holly Furtick - where her life style is her greatest message.
- I want to extend a special hello to our newest location in Greensboro North Carolina.
- For all for all women attending today please accept our gift of a pink mug that "the gift in the grind"
- Save the Date: Reflect 2019 on Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM.
- I don't mind doing dishes - it is important that I don't forget to turn on the dishwasher cycle before I go to bed. And when I don't remember to run the cycle things get smelly.
- Today I want to talk to you about a different kind of cycle - not the dishwasher cycle.
- See Romans 5: 1-5
- when I read the Scripture the "cycle of hope" leapt off the pages to me.
- See the above diagram.
- As believers we have this Romans 8:28 hope.
- It's a special hope - not a hope that our situation will change - it's not a hope that says maybe our spouses are going to change - or the hope that our health will improve. Of course. it's good to have generic hope in your life - however that's not the kind of hope that is discussed in Romans 5.
- Paul tells us that our hope is in the glory of God.
- It's a Romans 8:28 hope - where every mistake and suffering is working towards a greater good and the expectation that things are not can always turn out the way we thought.
- We have a faith that we trust God that things are going to work out.
- But then we have suffering - unfortunately this is something that is guaranteed in life will -we are all going to suffer - and being a follower of Christ does not exempt us from suffering.
- As children, perhaps, we thought that if we were good person and a nice person would be exempt from suffering - however we know that suffering is a part of life.
- As Christians we also believe that God is working in our situation all the time.
- And so are suffering leads to perseverance - where we keep going even though we don't think we can keep going - where we have to just figure out a way to put one foot in front of the other even though you don't know how you're doing it.
- Moms know this well because we can persevere even when were sick or when we are tired.
- We all know this - because bills don't pay themselves - we have to persevere through difficult situations at work and at home.
- We can't just stop just because were going through a difficult season.
- While we persevere through a situation, we find out how strong we are.
- Where we tap into strength that we didn't even know that was there.

- In this perseverance leads to character.
- And we realize that we are stronger now than we were before.
- And we are wiser now than we were before.
- And we are kinder and more compassionate than we were before.
- And this leads us back to hope.
- This is the “hope cycle.”
- I experienced this a few years ago when the local news was reporting some negative things about my husband – where were God showed me how to cultivate inner strength to deal with the situation - to build endurance in me.
- In this process God was building my character - forcing me to place our church, our ministry, and our reputation in His hands - and I’m stronger and wiser for it.
- Every time we go through this cycle are hope gets stronger.
- In the “Passion” translation of the Bible says “character leads us back to hope.”
- And the cycle begins again - and we go into this new cycle stronger and more hopeful.
- Wouldn’t it be nice if we only had us handle one cycle at a time - however this is not the case.
- See the above diagram - we all have many different cycles going on at a given time.
- In each cycle is building in us perseverance and character - in feeding into one another - and building our hope.
- From the stress of an overdue bill we learn self-control.
- From anxiety in raising our children we learn to pray.
- And from a conflict with a friend we learn the power of an apology.
- **And all of these little hope cycles feed into the bigger one.**
- The most important lesson today is to not get stuck - we must o continuously run the cycle.
- **The more you lean into this process the more you gain from it.**
- **And there are a few things that can break your cycle - and keep us in a state of perpetual suffering - and delay/prolong the process of what God is trying to do in your life:**
 - **Your sin – we say things like: “no one has ever been through this before - and no one knows what I’m going through.”**
 - **Complaining – Oh way is happening to me? Really? Complaining caused the Hebrew people to remain in the desert for 40 more years.**
 - **Blame – oh, if my husband didn’t do what he did we would never be in the situation.**
 - **Some days we have to feel all of these things - where are you going to want to know through alcohol Netflix, or are some other instrument.**
 - **Don’t let the dirty dishes sit in the dishwasher - run the cycle.**
 - **Stopping the process only delays what God has in store for me.**
- **And there are a few things that can cultivate your cycle – and give you momentum:**
 - **Come to church - is totally normal to wake up and not feel like coming to church when you are struggling because the pull is always there to stay away. There’s something special about coming to church and being here together with other believers - even when you’re hurting.**
 - **Put the right voices in your life - when you’re hurting, the last thing you want to do is tell somebody what is going on - the words and the prayers of a friend are life-giving. And I know this is counterintuitive since when you’re suffering the first thing we want to do with withdraw - to not look at people in the eyes and tell them what’s going on. When you open yourself up and be vulnerable to a person you can trust - you experience both intimacy and communion - then something very special happens.**
 - **Worship music - we all have a song that got us through a difficult season. “Unstoppable God” and “Do It Again” was the song that got me through a difficult season.**

- Run the cycle to get back the momentum - to get back into the cycle
- See John chapter 9 - where Jesus restores sight to a blind man.
- See John 9: “9 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
- We should stop trying to explain things away - God is so much bigger than us - and can’t be explained by simple cause-and-effect - and simple formulas.
- Jesus says take your eyes off the suffering and put your hope into the glory of God.
- The writer Ann Voskamp (see: <https://annvoskamp.com/>) says this: “My darkness becomes a campus for his light.”
- And Jesus reaches down the dirt spits into the dirt and make some mud.
- I read this week and learned that this spitting into the dirt is significant. This man was born blind and the people believe that he was cursed - in the cultural norm of the time was when someone walked by someone that was cursed they would spit on the ground - as a form of rejection. This time it’s Jesus and he’s not rejecting him - he is embracing him - and he applies the mud on the man’s eyes and tells him to go wash.
- In the Bible tells us that the man went home seeing - and his cycle of suffering was over.
- However, people do not celebrate this man’s remarkable ability to see - he is then questioned by the Pharisees and villagers because the healing took place on the Sabbath. Even his parents don’t defend him.
- Due to the man’s faith in Jesus, the man is thrown out of the synagogue.
- And then Jesus comes back to the man.
- See vs. 35: 35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out (of the Synagogue), and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”
- When Jesus was asking this question - Bible commentary says that he wasn’t asking the man if Jesus was the Messiah - Jesus was simply asking - do you trust me?
- **And I believe this is the question that Jesus wants to ask us today. He wants us to stop asking all of our questions - and he wants us to answer this question - do you trust me?**
- **Even if Jesus is not going to fix “it” - he still going to fix us.**
- Once we arrived at the point of understanding, we realize that God is going to try to fix the situation through us - because we’re not exempt from “it” - but we have this hope - the special hope.
- **See Hebrews 6:18 and Col 1:27.**
- When you are experiencing intense suffering, you don’t want to be told that “God is building your character.” This is not what we want to hear at that moment - we don’t know how it’s going to turn out - or how much longer it’s going to last – and you are in that very difficult place. Here is one place to start: it sucks and it’s hard - and I wouldn’t want to wish your situation on anyone - and I don’t know why this is happened - and I don’t know whose fault it is - and I don’t know how long it’s going last - but I do know that God is going to be with you every step of the way - and God is with you when you feel him and even when you don’t feel him - and God is with you in the mist of your pain - the key is to cling to the hope when you have nothing else to hold onto.
- Remember the sermon “Never No Never?”
- **The one thing I want to say to you today is don’t let go of this cycle of hope.**
- Holly’s Closing prayer: Thank you Lord for giving us this hope. This hope that builds even when we are in the midst of pain and suffering - and you’re right there by our side and you find us - and you meet us right here - dear Lord we want to be encouraged today knowing that your grace is sufficient for this season. I pray for those here today that are hurting - and for some, Mother’s Day is a painful day for a lot of people. Dear Lord please comfort those that are in pain - I pray for those that are weary while they go through this cycle that they don’t know how long it’s going to last - and they don’t know if they can tap into this strength any longer -

I pray for those that are weary and in pain - that you give them a second wind Lord - that you give them a breath of fresh air - you are a comforter and our anchor for our souls. We thank you and we love you for that. In Jesus name we pray Amen.

- Pastor Furtick's closing Prayer #2: We all enter seasons of contradiction - and we are surrounded by people that are connected to the same source that You provide - it's a powerful and we take this moment - before we get back into our normal pattern of things - that we seal the word - and that we surrender our issues to God - God is trying to get you to stop fighting him – He wants to take control so we do not have to carry this burden alone. And I sense this could be a very significant moment in the life of a few hundred people in this room – where the thing that you are caring doesn't necessarily go away - but you get help for it - and the Holy Spirit longs to help you - right now we are joined by faith - even if your faith is a small vessel and the size of a mustard seed - that's okay because God can work with that. God can grow and water that. Lord we surrender all the things that came to our mind today - while Holly was delivering an excellent sermon, we are all thinking about our own cycles that are running wild in our head - now we consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory of God that will be revealed. This is what we believe. Now we come into agreement with our brothers and sisters in Christ today that our hope will not be diminished or deteriorated under the weight of a present trial - rather it will grow stronger knowing that you are present in every movement - even during periods of doubt, uncertainty, and our human frailty. Here is an opportunity for divinity to make the difference. We ask you now to come and intercede. Holy Spirit – in groans, we do not know what to pray for - or pray to - and we don't know what to do about our situation - find us in our present blindness - open our eyes to your glory in your grace - we declare over everyone in this room - they will leave without the weight of the world on their shoulders - they will not leave crucified to their failures - rather instead we declare your presence is our strength - and in your glory we find hope.
- Pastor Furtick's Salvation invitation: *"For anyone here today is far from God and you need the grace of God - and the forgiveness of your sins to trigger a new beginning - The question will you trust Me? Is the only question that you must answer. Not will you change your life, change your behavior, or quit your bad habits. Not, Do you know the Bible - because you can still know the Bible very well and not know God. And, we can all be very religious and still feel distant from God - but he may be knocking on the door of your heart today - to say let Me in a real and authentic way - let me be your savior and stop trying to look for other things to save you - do you trust Jesus as your Savior? Our tradition is to take a moment and pray for those in the room or for those watching online - to make a decision to place their faith in Jesus for salvation. If this expresses the desire of your heart, the Bible says that if you express it with your mouth that Jesus is Lord you believe in your heart you will be saved - and you never have to wonder again – So repeat after me this prayer: Heavenly father I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I believe that Jesus Christ is a son of God and the Savior of the world and today I make Jesus the Lord of my life. I believe he died so that I could be forgiven and rose again to give me life. Today I receive this new life this is my new beginning."*