

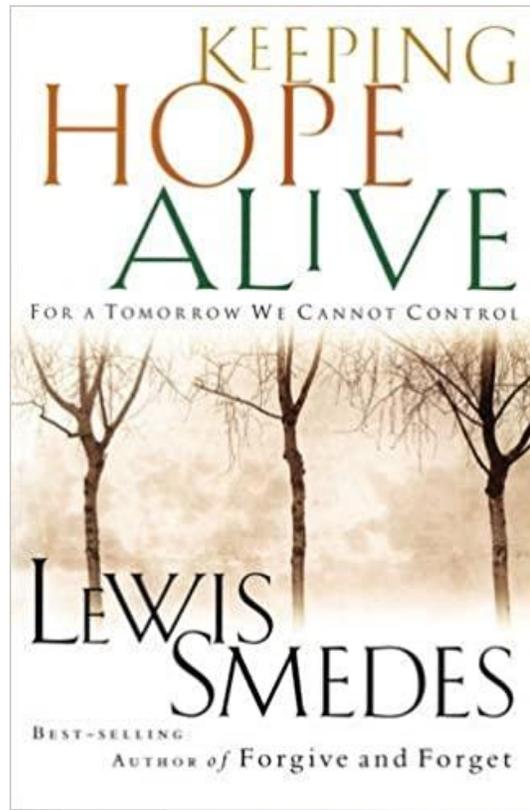
Keeping Hope Alive

The Stuff Hope is Made Of

Romans 8:21-25

...For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Keeping Hope Alive: For a Tomorrow We Can't Control



Available on Amazon Kindle. Also available on Scrbd



Bred in the Bone

Key Idea: Hope is to the spirit as oxygen is to the lungs. Our minds are made to think, our hearts to feel, our bodies to do, and our spirits to hope.

What if we could measure hope, like we measure a heart beat, or brainwaves, or oxygen level in the body? Let's measure hope on a scale of 1 to 10. A 10 means the future is brimming with hopeful possibilities. A 1 means the future is dreaded and bleak. Where are you?

The Stuff Hope is Made of: Wishing

- ▶ Key Idea: A real hope begins with a wish, something we desperately want. Our discontents are a clue to our wishes. The trick is to become “content with discontent.”
- ▶ Take a moment a write down your wishes. Maybe start with your discontent. It can be related to COVID-19, or much bigger than that.

The Stuff Hope is Made of: Imagining

- ▶ Key Idea: Imagination gives us the ability to see the world as it should be or could be, and the ability to see the possibilities within the world as it is. The kingdom of God is often “hidden.” Imagination helps us to see glimpses and possibilities of the kingdom of God.
- ▶ Look for a minute with the eyes of your imagination. What does your oversight see: what does the world look like as it should be? What does your insight see: what possibilities do you see now, what potential, hidden beneath the surface of this time?

The Stuff Hope is Made of: Believing

- ▶ Key Idea: Hope needs more than wishing and imagining. Hope is born the moment we believe that what we wish for and imagine is possible. In that way, hope is deeply interwoven with faith.
- ▶ What are some core beliefs you about God that strengthens your hope? These statements might begin with: I believe God is...

Summing Up

- ▶ We need hope to live. As much as we need oxygen. It's bred in our bones, and God's gift for our journey into a future we can't control.
- ▶ Hope is made of wishing, the ways we wish life and the world could be better.
- ▶ Hope is made of imagining, seeing a picture of the way the world could be and of the possibilities that exist within what is.
- ▶ Hope is made of believing, believing that what we wish and imagine is possible.

A Closing Quote from Lew...

“I believe that one day life will win over death, that good will win over evil, that love will win over hate, that joy will win over sadness, and that the whole world will work the way the creator intended it to work. I want it desperately, I can imagine what it would be like, and I believe that with God it is possible. I have no hard evidence that such goodness is likely to heal our broken world. But I do have my reasons for believing it can. The reasons all compress into one: God. God is; therefore I hope. I hope; therefore I am.”