

11 Reasons to Be Optimistic About 2021 - Feb. 3, 2021

Optimism - “the tendency to expect the best possible outcome or to dwell on the most hopeful aspects of a situation.”

- Best optimism isn't based on earthly events, but hope in God.
- Optimism is a choice. Live w/ hope in God, or be down/ depressed.
- David chose hope. [Psalm 43:5](#) says, “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”
- We live in a world of change; life is different. News is bad; reasons for fear.

Tonight – let me share 11 reasons to be Optimistic:

1 – In a world of change, God is the same.

Hebrews 13:8 – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
He's stable. Reliable.

2 - The Bible is still a guidebook for life & God is still our source of wisdom.

Bible is our source of inspiration; God has all the answers we need.

- **James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”
- **Prov. 2:6** – “For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”
- **Ephesians 1:17-19** – “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.”
- **Luke 21:14-15** - Jesus told his disciples: “Don't worry about what you will say to defend yourselves. I will give you the wisdom to know what to say. None of your enemies will be able to oppose you or to say that you are wrong.”

3 – The Spirit is still speaking... still changing people.

- People can change their spots. They can change, be better, do better.
 - o Apostle Paul went from persecuting Christians to pastoring them.
 - o Judah led in selling his bro Joseph for \$, but he later offered to take Benjamin's place in prison

4 – God is still at work, making good happen from the bad.

- We can endure & accept difficult circumstances because we know that “all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose” ([Romans 8:28](#)).
- What looks bad is turned around and used for good. Mourning becomes joy.

5 – God is still pouring out blessings. He is love, so He shows love.

- **Luke 6:38** – “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” **Give to each other**
- **Malachi 3:10** – “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.” **Give to God**
- **Philippians 4:19** – “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
- **Matt. 6:25** - Jesus declared that we don't need “to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? . . . He feeds the birds and He clothes the lilies of the field. . . He cares for us much more than those. . . . ³¹ “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
- **2 Corinthians 9:8** – “And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” **God is an abundant God!**

6 – God still inhabits the praise of His people.

- *“God inhabits the praise of His people”* is from the KJV of [Psalm 22:3](#) -
- Doesn't mean God is only present when people are singing praises to Him. It reminds us that our praise brings God near; He is glorified when we lift His name in honor.
- **Psalm 147:11** – God “takes pleasure in those who honor him, in those who trust in his constant love.
- God enjoys it so much that power is activated with praise.
 - it was in praising God that Paul's jail cells were flung open. ‘
 - praising Him opens us up to “just wait, you haven't seen anything yet.”

7 – God is still for you.

- **Rom. 8:31** - “If God is for us, who can ever be against us?”
- No opposition can hold you back or defeat your purpose.
- **Rom. 8:33** - “Who could bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who justifies.” - He's our defender. Don't worry about others.
- We are more than conquerors. (**Rom. 8:37**)

8 – God is still guiding us, taking care of us, even in difficult circumstances.

- **Isaiah 58:11** – “The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.”
 - He may not remove the circumstance, but He'll take care of us thru it.
- **Jeremiah 17:5,7-8** - This is what the Lord says: “Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. . . . ⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. ⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”
 - Maturity (Christian) gives you peace. You may experience drought, tough times, but you can still praise God & be a light that shines for God... b/c you know your life is in His hands.

9 – God still loves us. Nothing separates us from the love of God.

- **Rom. 8:38-39** – “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.”
- **Lamentations 3:22-23** - “The Lord’s love never ends; His mercies never stop. They are new every morning.”
- **1 John 3:1** - “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

10 – There is still room at the cross.

- The ground is level. We’re all the same – fallen short.
- It’s never too late for forgiveness.
- **1 Tim. 2:4** – God “wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”
- **2 Pet. 3:9** – “He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

11 – There is still a place for you at the table

- God will never abandon you; He’ll never disown you.
- God loved us first, and He’ll love us last.
- He will always be waiting for us to come home, and He will throw a party!
 - He did for the prodigal son – they killed the fatted calf.
 - He called out to Zacchaeus and ate with him.
 - He prepared breakfast on a beach for a weary and broken Peter.
 - He shared a meal with Simon & other Pharisees when a shamed and sorrowful woman broke an alabaster jar, poured oil on His feet.
 - He fed 5 thousand with 5 fish & 2 loaves of bread so they could know the love of the Father and learn about the Kingdom of God.
 - **Jesus offers us a heavenly banquet table. Join Him in eternity and take your place at the table**
 - **“Come, whoever is thirsty, let him come” – Rev. 22:17**

Song of the week – “I’m Gonna Keep On”