

TALK

AC

A

WHERE THE  
APOSTOLIC COUNCIL  
SHARE THEIR HEARTS

SEPT  
2013



FROM  
LOUIS' HEART  
TO YOURS

# Hope

PRISONER OF

Hello dear friends!

We find ourselves in September already and 2013 is nearly over! What a year it has been! Vision, victory, growth, challenges... and through it all, our amazing Father has been speaking direction and encouragement, such as *He is our Way Maker*, and *Be One and Make One!*

However, it is at this point in the year when it is helpful to stop and take a look at where we are and how we are doing - as leaders, as families, and as churches. Whenever we as leaders get excited about something that God is speaking to us, we must also be ready to face resistance. For example, there will always be people around us who will have opposing opinions, or they may even disagree completely with our vision. There will always be times when the bank account will scream "It's

impossible!" And there will always be seasons when the pressures around us make us ask the question "Do I really have what it takes to see this through?"

It is in these times that we may find ourselves wrestling inside to maintain an attitude of **Faith and Hope** instead of **Criticism and Scepticism**, and we may even find ourselves asking the hard question... "How do I keep hoping and believing when I am discouraged and tired?"

**PRISONER OF HOPE**

In the midst of such a season of wrestling, I was again reminded of the story in Zechariah 9. If you recall, God had given the children of Israel the mandate to rebuild the temple and they were 'struggling to finish.' Let's face it... they were failing badly in what God had instructed them to do.

They were neglecting to obey the details of their calling, and were instead busy doing their own thing. Sound familiar to anyone?

They had lost focus on what God had told them, and as a result they lost hope in their ability to accomplish it, and in His ability to keep His promises concerning them. Losing hope is a natural thing that happens to the best of us. Even the Bible talks about moments like these.

- Job 6:11a "What strength do I have, that I should still hope?"
- Proverbs 13:12a "Hope deferred makes the heart sick."

In reality, God could have, and should have, given them all a severe rebuke and 'put them in their place.' But what did he do instead? **He**

**encouraged them!** He responded to their apathy with the message 'You CAN make it!' Wow! What an awesome and merciful God!

Let's read it together.

RETURN TO THE STRONGHOLD OF  
SECURITY AND PROSPERITY  
**YOU PRISONERS OF HOPE!**  
EVEN TODAY DO I DECLARE THAT I  
WILL RESTORE DOUBLE YOUR FORMER  
PROSPERITY TO YOU."

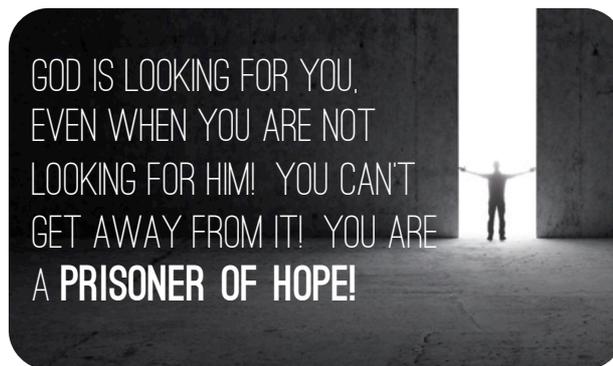
(ZECHARIAH 9:12 AMP)

So, what is Hope? Simply put, **Hope is a joyful expectation!** Hope is what tells you that despite present circumstances, tomorrow will be better. Hope is what strengthens your heart when you meditate on the Word and God's promises take root inside of you. Promises like...

"I know the thoughts and plans I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."  
(Jeremiah 9:11 Amp)

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6 NIV)

You may find yourself in a prison today (emotionally, financially, relationally, etc), but there is still hope! God is looking for you, even when you are not looking for Him! You can't get away from it! You are a **Prisoner of Hope!**



## DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRISONERS

Now, we need to realize that prisoners come in many different shapes and sizes.

There are definitely those who live their lives as **PRISONERS WITHOUT HOPE.** Who are they?

1. The Devil and his demons.
2. Evil people who spoke out against God and did evil until their last minute, without having repented before death.
3. Those who don't know Jesus yet (but that can change!)

At the same time, there are also **PRISONERS OF HOPE!**

1. Those who died in their faith.
2. Those who walk in Christ today.
3. Those who get saved and don't just get out of their dilemma that they are in, but God actually shifts them from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Light.

These Prisoners of Hope are in such a place of blessing (even if they don't know it yet), because they are 'condemned to victory!' They can't help but be blessed!

## GOD'S HEART FOR YOU

God's heart for His children is declared out loud in Jeremiah 29:11 when He said *"I know the thoughts and plans I have for you... thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."*

Two chapters later in Jeremiah 31:17, He again reminded them *"So there is HOPE for your future...!"*

And in the New Testament, God brought the reality home to us as believers when He declared in Colossians 1:27 that *"...Christ in you is the HOPE of glory!"*

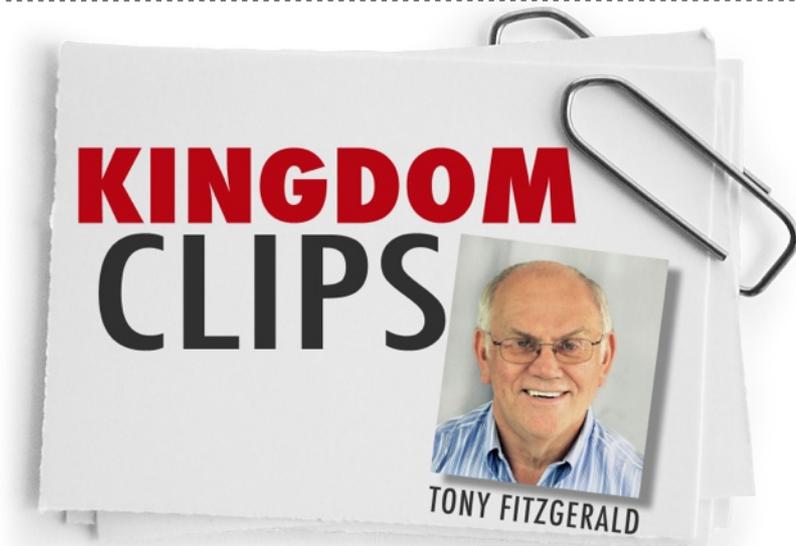
There is ALWAYS HOPE in God! A joyful expectation that what He says is true, and what He starts He will complete! What an awesome encouragement!

You are a **Prisoner of Hope!**

Louis



LOUIS AND EDNA ELS



THESE  
THREE

The theme of this AC talk is "HOPE". Thanks Louis for an excellent article. I Corinthians 13 says, "now these three remain, faith hope and love". Over the years, hope has been treated as the 'poor relative' of the three. There are so many more books, messages and conferences on the themes of love and faith.

In my travels, I have noticed an increase of hope-gripping believers. I wrote a forward for Gordon Methven's recently published book *"The Hope of Glory – Exceeding Expectations"*. Gordon is a part of COTN OASIS Church in Elgin, Scotland and his book is his story of hope.

Why is hope so important? Without it, love becomes just a noun not a verb, and faith teaching becomes just motivational and a temporary encouragement. (Hebrews 11:1a says: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for")

Biblically, it is hope that anchors the soul and living in a day with so much hopelessness we need our mind, will and emotions (our soul) anchored.

Tony



COTN DAY OF PRAYER 2013

We as the Church of the Nations family recently held our annual COTN Day of Prayer. Herewith a short summary of this years theme.

RE- ENCOUNTERING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Among Jesus' final instructions to his disciples there are those contained in Matt 28:19 and Mark 16:15 to go into all the world, preaching and making disciples. This has become know as THE GREAT COMMISSION over time.

He culminated and defined this instruction in Acts 1:8."But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the UTMOST part of the earth."

There is a neoteric stirring on the face of the earth at this time for the Bride of Christ to have a fresh relevance in bringing the Kingdom. As such we as the COTN Family will continue to exhort ourselves to rediscover our own Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Uttermost parts of the earth, both as churches and individually.

This will be undergirded by a prophetic journey to be known as 'WALKING THE GREAT COMMISSION' which David Cape will undertake as he once again carries his cross and bowl physically, walking though Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the most remote populated place on earth, between March and May next year.

What a wonderful opportunity to re discover our own redemptive callings and purpose as we continue to pray and stand together in spirit as we 'RE- ENCOUNTER THE GREAT COMMISSION'!

**YOU ARE INVITED**

to attend our COTN Leadershift Conference in The Netherlands this year from the 18th (commencing at 7pm) to the 20th of October (concluding at 2pm).

What a blessing and privilege it will be to have you all with us again!

This year, the conference will be held at the Bilderberg Hotel 't Speulderbos in Garderen, The Netherlands. All pastors, eldership and leadership are invited to attend.

Our focus is on leadership and we have invited Derek Morpew from Vineyard Church to address us on the Kingdom of God.

**TO REGISTER**

Please send an email to [conference@cotn.nl](mailto:conference@cotn.nl) with your full name(s) and the name of your home church.

**CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

For further conference information, please send an email to [conference@cotn.nl](mailto:conference@cotn.nl) or go to [www.cotn.org](http://www.cotn.org) Please take note, registrations close on the 14th of October 2013.

We look forward to a significant time of celebration and joy in His presence as we touch hearts together as a family! See you all in October!



**MORE INFO...**

For any comments, suggestions and news, please do not hesitate to contact the COTN Virtual Resource Centre at [communication@cotn.org](mailto:communication@cotn.org)



WWW.COTN.ORG