

This begins as merely the expression of my heart, but at some point it bridges into a prophetic word from God to you.

I believe

- You are trying your best to live a godly life.
- You truly desire to be pleasing to God
- You love God with all your heart
- You pray and read God's word regularly and that you desire only to grow and increase in your faith

Like a father watching his child play a sport or play an instrument at a recital

- I believe you are doing your best
- And that brings me great joy
- But I also see so much more
- I believe you have potential far beyond your present ability
- I BELIEVE IN YOU
  - I believe that your love and faithfulness can increase exponentially
  - I believe that you have the potential to change yourself, others, even the world!
  - I believe you are able
    - To see miracles occur
    - To see lives transformed
    - To be instruments of bringing God's Kingdom to the earth
    - To be Christ's ambassadors to those around you that have not heard, and have not seen the depth of His love.

Paul Writes to the **Romans** in Chapter **15:14**, "*I am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*"

- I am confident concerning you
  - That you are full of goodness
  - That you are filled with knowledge
  - That you are able to admonish (teach, instruct, and lead others)

I was corrected a few days ago

- Bill & Marilee Menser & Seth & Sarah Gerber meeting
  - About revamping our guest welcoming and assimilation process
  - We were well into the discussion, and were talking about some of the challenges that were involved in this process
  - One challenge we discussed was the difficulty for current members to get a vision for, and to go out of their way to embrace new people
  - I mentioned that most people come to church merely to get their own needs met – and often don't even notice others ... etc.
  - Marilee interrupted me and said she did believe that...
    - She comes hoping to serve and love others
    - And she knows that many others come with that attitude as well..

- I realized I had bought into a lie
  - I believed the studies I had read that indicated that people come mainly to have their needs met
  - I believed some of the evidence I had seen that supported that assumption
  - But just because there is “some” evidence and a study or two – doesn’t mean that it is true.
  - I had bought into an UGB – based on facts but not True!
- The truth is I BELIEVE IN YOU
  - I believe you are committed to serving Christ and His body – the church – with your whole heart
  - I believe you have vast potential
  - I believe we can become all that God has destined New Day to become
- But this goes much farther than the specific issue we were discussing...
  - God wants to affirm you
  - [FYI – That is what I first heard from God as I was in prayer concerning what He wanted me to share this Sunday. From that I remembered my experience with Marilee, and saw that as an example, or testimony that fit.]
  - It is out of God's affirmation that we can and will obtain the strength and confidence to live Kingdom lives!

**Jeremiah 31:17**, *“The Lord says, “There is hope for/in your future.”*

**Jeremiah 29:11**, *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not evil, to give you a future and a hope...”*

- Peace: shalom
  - In English “peace” means “the absence of war or strife.”
  - But in Hebrew it means much much more
    - Rather than meaning the absence or lack of something, this word means experiencing the fullness of:
      - Prosperity
      - Health
      - Safety
      - Completeness
      - Soundness
      - Tranquility
      - Contentment
      - Friendship
        - With others
        - With God through covenant relationship
  - God's expectation for you is shalom – the experience of the fullness of all these things, a future of HOPE!

Three steps towards realizing (making this real) in your life

1. Step One: Understand it
  - a) Study it
  - b) Memorize verses pertaining to your future, God's promise
  - c) Read about it, in Scripture, and in other books that are based on God's word
  - d) Write out specifics concerning God's promises concerning your life

- e) Seek out understanding in this area, don't be intellectually lazy, but rather, "study to show thyself approved"
2. Step Two: Believe it
- a) Embrace it emotionally and intellectually
  - b) Grasp this promise by faith
  - c) Based, not upon your works, not upon how good you are or what good you've done
  - d) But based completely and absolutely upon what Christ did for you
    - Our ability to receive Peace – Shalom is Christ
    - **Romans 5:1-2** NKJV *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
    - Peter speaking to the gentiles gathered at Cornelius' house in **Acts 10:36** NIV *You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*
    - According to Peter the message God sent was "**the good news of peace THROUGH Jesus Christ!**"
    - Our access to this wonderful fullness of prosperity, health, safety, contentment and friendship with man and God, the Biblical concept of shalom/peace comes "through Jesus Christ."
    - Later in that same message Peter says in **Acts 10:43** NIV *All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*
    - Step two is to BELIEVE IT, we must "believe in him" just as God believes in us.
      - In order to receive the benefits of God's belief in us, His promises to us
      - We must Believe in him – it's just that simple
3. Step Three – Confess it
- a) Start talking about your future
  - b) Confess = to agree
    - Agree with God
    - Agree with God's promises about you from scripture
    - Agree with God's promises about you from prophecy, and hearing his voice
    - Agree with God – Speak your future into existence
  - c) While at Disney (a recurring theme, but expressed clearly on one ride)
    - The idea – "create your own future"
    - Wow – that's powerful, that's what Walt Disney did, he envisioned something that didn't exist, and then went out and built it – and it's still being built
    - In Christ, this aspiration of mankind, can truly be realized – by faith we can create our future as we agree with God – and God's idea is infinite and eternal
  - d) Tell others about it
  - e) Talk out loud about God's dreams for you – and his dreams for those around you
  - f) This is something YOU have to do – you can't wait for others
    - God has spoken it over you
    - Now agree with Him and let others know about it
    - Be humble, but be confident