

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

ROMANS 4:18

THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

1. Many of us lack resolution in our life struggles because of our intense effort to be in **CONTROL!**
2. We can break the control mentality by owning our **DENIALS!**
3. It's when we **FACE** our reality that we find hope. Generally there are three events that move us toward facing our reality:

* *CRISIS* * *CONFRONTATION* * *CATASTROPHE*

4. Accept by faith God's **WORD OF HOPE.** (Hebrews 11:6)

...without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

5. The more I learn of God's **CHARACTER** the more I learn to trust in God.

- What is God Like? ***JESUS!***

6. Accept God's **OFFER** to help me.

- God *knows* me & my situation.
- God *cares* about me & my situation.
- God *can change* me & my situation.

God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

- I need *power* to break the strongholds in my life & to free me from my past.
- *Love*—I want to be loved and to be able to love others.
- *Self-control*—I need a self-control engineered by Jesus.