

Series: Hope, Suffering & Redemption (Week 3)

Date: November 6, 2025

Presenter: Pastor Donell M. Winder

Lesson Title: Where do we find hope?

Anchor Scripture: Hebrews 12:2 (NLT) – “Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”

Big Idea

Hope is found at the Cross, where suffering is redefined, pain is transformed, and victory is secured. The Cross reminds us that God does His greatest work in the darkest places. Through Christ’s endurance and sacrifice, we learn that pain has purpose, sorrow has meaning, and suffering leads to glory. The Cross teaches us that God is near in our pain, faithful in our waiting, and powerful in our restoration. When we fix our eyes on Christ, hope becomes more than a feeling; it becomes a firm foundation rooted in His finished work.

Key Insights

- **The Cross Shows That God Uses Suffering for Salvation:** The Cross proves that God never wastes pain but turns it into purpose. What feels like breaking is often the beginning of blessing. Christ’s suffering became our salvation, showing us that pain and purpose can work together in God’s plan. Our hardships are not proof of His absence but the soil where His redemption grows (Isaiah 53:3–5; Romans 8:18).
- **The Cross Proves God Is Present in Our Pain:** At the Cross, God stepped into human suffering to show us He understands every wound. Jesus’ anguish in Gethsemane reveals that He did not face pain casually but embraced it fully to redeem us. Because of the Cross, we know that God is near to the brokenhearted and present in every moment of sorrow (Hebrews 4:15; Psalm 34:18; Luke 22:41–44).
- **The Cross Turns Suffering Into Victory:** What looked like defeat at Calvary became the greatest victory in history. The Cross teaches us that suffering is never the end of God’s story but the pathway to resurrection. Through Christ, what the enemy meant for evil becomes a testimony of triumph. Every believer can endure hardship knowing victory is already secured (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; Genesis 50:20).
- **The Cross Calls Us to Endure With Hope:** The Cross calls us to endure with faith and expectation. Endurance is not about surviving hardship but trusting that God is working through it. The same power that raised Christ from the dead strengthens us to keep going. Waiting is never wasted when Christ is within us, producing lasting glory (2 Corinthians 4:17–18; Hebrews 10:36).

Application

1. See suffering through the lens of the Cross instead of despair.
2. Trust that God is working even when we cannot see it.
3. Lean into Christ’s presence when pain feels overwhelming.
4. Endure with faith, knowing resurrection follows every cross.
5. Fix your eyes on Jesus and let hope anchor your heart.

Closing Thought

The Cross is the believer’s anchor of hope. It reminds us that suffering is temporary, purpose is eternal, and victory is already written. God is not distant from our pain; He is working through it to reveal His glory. When we endure with faith and keep our eyes on Christ, every cross we carry becomes a testimony of resurrection. Hope is not lost; it is alive because Christ is alive. In Him, our suffering becomes the doorway to eternal triumph and our faith becomes unshakable in the power of His love.