

CHAPTER EIGHT

Hope's Purpose

The Big Picture ...

As we follow God's call and focus on the needs in the world, it can be easy to become frustrated. In chapter eight, Bill Hybels talks about the importance of hope in the midst of one's holy discontent.

Prepare

Read chapter eight in *Holy Discontent* and look over the verses below.

Ice-Breaker

What's your biggest pet peeve? What's your favorite thing to do on a day off?

God's Words

Read: Romans 5:1-8**Peace and Joy**

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. .

Discuss

1. What encourages you in this passage?
2. What challenges you or raises questions in your mind? (Talk about them as a group)
3. What application points do you see for your life in this Scripture or from

the discussion so far?

4. In this chapter, Bill Hybels talks about *hope*. He writes, “You can’t let the ‘discontent’ part of your holy discontent discourage or depress you. Trust me: I was almost sidelined on two separate occasions by my own passion pursuits in ministry and had to learn the (very) hard way that, regardless of the pain, the risk, the disappointment, or the setbacks associated with feeding your holy discontent, you simply *cannot* let hope die.” (p. 133)

How can we keep that hope alive? What spiritual resources are available for us? How can we find hope in the midst of the challenges?

Hybels’ Words

“Maybe you know exactly what your holy discontent is. I urge you to commit to praying for more clarity regarding the vision God might birth out of it. Whatever you do, declare today that you will jump all over the task of feeding it!

Or perhaps you were once gripped by a firestorm of frustration that compelled you to kingdom-building action, but you’ve let the dream die. I encourage you to revisit what it was that got you in the game to begin with. Head back to the burning-bush conversation that directed you all those years ago.

Or you might be one who simply needs to stick your neck out and grab onto a higher level of risk. You need to step into the “fundamental state” where you can be refreshed regarding the high stakes of effecting change and where you can be inspired to ratchet everything up a notch in pursuit of a worthy vision.

Friends, in what *other* life are you going to go all out? We all have one shot and one shot only to leave a lasting legacy - a definitive mark on this world that reflects our decision to lean into, not away from, our areas of holy discontent. A legacy that says, “I have been trusted to carry God’s message of hope to an aching, fractured world in need, and I refuse to rest until my role in that is fulfilled.” - *Holy Discontent*, pp. 135-136

Discuss

1. Which situation in the above text do you feel applies most to you? Why?
2. If you have discovered your holy discontent, how do you need to focus on hope in the pursuit of it?
3. We are trusted to carry God’s message of hope to an aching, fractured

world in need. How does that idea apply to your life? How can you be a “hope carrier”?

Your Words

We pick one thing from *Holy Discontent* to talk about each week, but what stood out to you?

1. What did you like best?
2. What challenged you or did you disagree with?
3. What did you learn that opened your eyes to a new side of God?
4. What do you need to apply from the reading?

Close

Don't forget to take time to share prayer requests!