

The Heart of Hope

No More Perfect Date Night

Mark Savage: You wanna know why I had an affair? I lacked hope. You wanna know why I left my marriage? I lacked hope. According to 1 Corinthians 13:7, that means I also lacked love. And dang, I didn't tie those two together.

Jill Savage: No, no. And that's because God's word tells us that love hopes all things.

MS: Mm-hmm. And a lack of hope, it equals a lack of love. And so often we don't... We don't think about that. And I'd have to really agree and believe that it's really important to connect those dots that we realize hope and love are tied together.

JS: Yeah. And that is so true, you know, when... You know, as marriage coaches, as we are dealing with umm so many couples who are umm not in a good place...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Similar to where we weren't in a good place uh 10, 12 years ago, umm when you drill it down...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: To the the the root...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: One or both, but most often, one has lost hope.

MS: Yeah, yeah.

JS: When you really drill... You have to get past the blame, you have to get past the accusations, all of that, but when you drill it down, you begin to realize that it comes down to that lack of hope. Because hope is seeing the promise and the potential in people and circumstances. And really, hope is believing that God is at work.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: That's that's the essence of it. So the only way... When we lose hope, it's because we've moved our eyes from the mountain mover to the mountain.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: All we're looking at is the mountain, we're not looking at the mountain mover, we're not looking at what God can do or how he's at work.

MS: You know, and I think too that so often... Well, for me, I justified my hopelessness. God wasn't doing what I wanted.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: God wasn't moving the way I thought he promised he should.

JS: Yeah.

MS: And we weren't changing the way I was demanding.

JS: Yeah.

MS: Man, there's a lot of irate there, wasn't it?

[laughter]

MS: You know. And I really justified my way into hopelessness.

JS: Wow, that is so true. And I think that umm... I don't know. There is a... Always been a core belief in me that God is good and he's always at work. And so even when I can't see it, uh losing hope has not been something that is easy for me to go to.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: And I'm grateful that during that dark season, you were hopeless and I was hopeful.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: Now, I'll be really honest with you...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: I was afraid that at some point you were gonna make permanent decisions that were gonna affect my life.

MS: Right.

JS: And if so, that still didn't mean that I didn't have hope that God was at work or that God could still work inside of you, even if our marriage hadn't made it. Uh I think it's important that that hope is there, that God can redeem the broken places, umm and you know, if he's got two willing people, he can redeem a broken marriage. If he's only got one willing person, the marriage might not make

it, but he can redeem that broken place in your life.

MS: Right.

JS: And that's... There's hope...

MS: Yeah.

JS: In both of those, right?

MS: I think too that I saw hope working in you, and I think I began to realize that my ruin was fueled by hopelessness, and hope is what fueled you to make changes within yourself...

JS: Yeah.

MS: That really were for the better of the two of us.

JS: Mm-hmm. Yeah. And as I used that fuel to hope, to make changes in me...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: So I used hope as a fuel to make changes in me, and as I did that, honestly, it began to give you hope.

MS: Yeah.

JS: It birthed hope in you.

MS: Yeah, yeah.

[laughter]

MS: No kidding. I remember uh just some of those early conversations where we didn't actually use the word hope, but as we've learned from it, hope was what was birthed.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: And, uh hope was the fuel that allowed me to... That motivated me to make changes.

JS: Right, right. So when God's word tells us that, umm, that love hopes all things...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: This is what it's talking about. Umm and so it's really important for us to understand how important hope is and love...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: In a marriage.

MS: Yes.

JS: Because, here's the other part of hope, or hopelessness, sorry, here's the other part of hopelessness, and that is that when we lose hope, it's silent.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: But it's a silent simmering...

MS: Yeah.

JS: It's a silent stewing, and it's a silence that really shuts our heart down...

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: And shuts our spouse out.

MS: Yes. And for me, that silence also grabbed hold of my voice and kept me from speaking out because it didn't matter anyway.

JS: Mm-hmm.

MS: My thinking, my actions were all fueled by hopelessness.

JS: Mm-hmm. Right. So like failing to believe all things.

MS: Mm-hmm.

MS: Failing to hope all things...

JS: It's a form of unbelief. I mean it's an unbelief in the nature of God's work.

MS: Mm-hmm.

JS: It's an unbelief in the fact that he is at work, even if we can't see it.

MS: Right.

JS: But God calls us to bear all things, believe all things, hope, all things, those are the words that we read.

MS: Right.

JS: In 1 Corinthians 13. So let's keep hope and love alive in our hearts.

MS: Yeah.

JS: And this is what allows us to bring a powerful commitment.

MS: Yeah.

JS: To the one that we've chosen to partner in life with.

[music]