



## Life on the Front Line - Winning the Battle for Hope

“Building people who change the world”

No one word can describe it.

It's not just army because it's too family to just be army.

But it's not just family because it's too warlike to be just family.

It's not clan because it's too inclusive and welcoming to be clan.

It's not just organisation because it's too fluid and dynamic to be just organisation and

it's not rabble because it's too other-serving, authentic and kind to be a rabble.

It's the church. It's the people of the living God.

“We are not building a big church; we are building big people” Bill Johnson

If we are to be those big people - we are to be those who transform the world...it starts in our minds

“Every action begins with the thought that produced it.” Graham Cook

Week 1: Trials - “If we win the battle in the mind, we will win the battle in the mud”

Week 2: Hope

### Hope is your internal vision of the future

The enemy wants to have your hope. If he can corrupt your hope, he can corrupt your heart. Without hope, you're as good as dead.

### Winning the battle for hope

Eph 3:20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### 1/ Thinking superabundantly

We have to change the way we think about God

a/ He is able - because nothing is impossible for Him

b/ ...to do... - because he is not passive, or inactive or dead

c/ ...what we ask... - because he hears our prayers

d/ ...or think... - because he even hears the prayers that we don't pray

e/ ...all... - because he knows all our needs and can do it all

f/ ...far more abundantly (superabundantly) - he's the **superabundant** God

Big people have big thinking. Actually big people have superabundant thinking

**The children of a superabundant Father must think superabundantly!**

## **2/ How do you keep hope (your picture of the future) alive?**

1 Kings 19:9 So he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered? Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed?'"

### **A. Exposure & Isolation** (Bring the enemies version of the future into the light)

1 Kings 19: 14 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.

Whenever the enemy says hide something I make a particular effort to bring it into the light.

narrow it down to one key thought or phrase; not to focus on it but to focus the light on it

write it down

### **B. Negation** (Challenge the enemy's version)

1 Kings 19:15 And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said: "O Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. Therefore they were destroyed."

"What if" tool

### **C. Declaration** (Allow God to speak his version/remind yourself of God's version)

1 Kings 19:22 Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard. This is the word that the Lord has spoken concerning him: "Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel!'" v32 "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the Lord. For I will

defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.

write it down/journal it

#### **D. Pummelling (Persevere until you beat the enemy's version into submission)**

1 King's 19:35 And that night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh. And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, his sons, struck him down with the sword and escaped into the land of Ararat.

### **3. What happens if hope really is lost?**

Is hope ever really lost?

Superabundant thinking leads to the overcoming spirit

“we might have lost some scraps - but while we're breathing we're overcoming”

“While I've got breath in me - I'm going to live for the glory of God. If God delivers me - then I welcome it. But even if he doesn't I'm going to worship him and serve him.”

**Christ came to seek and to save the lost. That includes those who've lost hope.**

**Superabundant thinking wins the battle for hope**

**The children of a superabundant Father must think superabundantly!**