

NORTH HILLS NOTES

Finding Hope In a Hopeless World WHEN YOUR FAITH IS CHALLENGED

April 9, 2011

In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

1. SANCTIFY the Lord in your heart. (see KJV)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Ephesians 3:16,17 (NIV)

- Keep God in the CENTER of your life.

2. Be READY and stay strong.

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. 1 Peter 5:8, 9 (NLT)

- Stay PREPARED for opportunities even in TROUBLE.

3. Show why you have HOPE.

Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5 (NIV)

Hope is revealed by:

- How you deal with SUFFERING & WEAKNESS.

Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! James 5:10 (Message)

Hope is revealed by:

- How you handle CIRCUMSTANCES.

I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12, 13 (NLT)

- How you treat PEOPLE.

The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:40 (CEV)

- How you LIVE YOUR LIFE.

I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

Philippians 1:10 (NLT)

Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Philippians 2:15 (NLT)