

# **POWER PRINCIPLES**

**1. Hope:** The Wikipedia defines hope as a belief in a positive outcome related to events and circumstances in one's life. Unfortunately, despite our hope, the outcome may not be positive unless it is in Christ. If life has placed you on the train called Despair, get off at the next stop called Faith in Christ, and “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord,” Psalms 31:24.

**2. Laughter:** No matter how hard the situations of your life may seem, remember Proverbs 17:22, which reminds us of the therapy of laughter: “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...”. “Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it.” (Bill Cosby) Remember to Laugh!

**3. Joy:** Sometimes the hardest thing to find in hard times is joy. The Bible speaks of weeping enduring through the night. But when you know Jesus you can have joy. In the Scriptures, we're promised, that joy comes in the morning. (Psalm 30:5)

**4. Peace:** Peace is a priceless commodity. It is a characteristic of those who have learned to trust in God. It is hard to understand amidst crises and difficult times. However, we have God's promise of peace even though we may not understand it. Philippians 4:7 states, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

**5. Encouragement:** We tend to think of encouragement as one-sided: being encouraged by someone else! But we maximize the impact of encouragement when we become encouragers. Help someone else! You'll feel the impact of encouragement once you start encouraging others.

**6. Patience:** During hard times, develop hard patience. Why? “Endurance is **patience** concentrated.” (Thomas Carlyle) Rather than become discouraged, be patient, remembering in the process, God is building in each of us endurance! Endurance is reaped along with the ability to trust our God as we see Him work in our lives. This is why Galatians 6:9 reminds us, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

**7. Faith:** What is faith? It's a passing grade on a test for a student. It's an extra check at month's end to cover the grocery bill for a hard-working, single mother. It's a beautiful wife and kids for a young bachelor. It's a functional marriage for the abused wife. Faith takes on many forms for different people, but its core lies in believing and expecting the unseen. If we anchor our faith in God, we can trust His providence for our needs. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”