

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE | WEEK #02

No Quitters Here | April 24th

WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

Sometimes churches _____ believing in the power of _____.

When we stop believing in the power of love, _____ for our world dies.

WHAT WISDOM DOES THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED IN LUKE 8 OFFER US?

The seed is the invitation to be a _____.

The Sower is the _____ and the _____ network of peacemakers.

The Path in Mark 4:14, Matthew 13:19, Luke 8:12

For Crossroads: The Path is the field marked by _____.

The Rocky Ground in Mark 4:16-17, Matthew 13:20-21, Luke 8:13

For Crossroads: The Rocky Ground is the field where divine love is experienced but lacks support in times of _____ or _____.

The Thorns in Mark 4:18-19, Matthew 13:22, Luke 8:14

For Crossroads: The Thorns are the fields of personal spirituality marked by the _____ of this world.

The Rich Soil in Mark 4:20, Matthew 13:23, Luke 8:15

For Crossroads: The Rich Soil is the field where peacemakers generously _____ people in the complexity of their trauma, doubt, opposition and distractions.

DON'T MISS THIS!

Hope demands that we _____ in our commitment to love.

HOW CAN I LIVE THIS OUT IN MY EVERYDAY, NORMAL LIFE?

Create a hope-filled space that _____ the power of trauma.

Create a hope-filled space that _____ questions.

Create a hope-filled space that _____ the dangerous distractions in our world.

Create _____ when you want to just quit loving.

HOW DOES THIS MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

When love perseveres, people find hope to _____ life's greatest evils.

WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. Don't give up.
2. Consider the different "fields" of my life and how receptive I am to God's presence in each one.

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever quit believing in the power of love? What were the circumstances around that? Did you ever feel hopeless?
2. Have you ever found yourself in the field of doubt or opposition, the Rocky Ground? How would it have been helpful to have a person's or community's support in those moments?
3. Persevering in love brings with it many challenges. Can you think of a person with whom you really had to persevere in love? What were some of the challenges you faced?
4. Boundaries are important in loving people. Without boundaries love can turn into codependency or enabling. What are some boundaries you have had to put in place so that you can persevere in love without doing self-harm?
5. The language of "overcoming" often doesn't account for reality. Some circumstances simply won't change. Describe a circumstance/problem in your life that doesn't change, yet you still live beautifully inside it.