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Here's Hope  
By Rev. Jerry Rea

### **Steps, Seeds and Spirits**

We all have hope for big changes. We dream of our kids being super-star Christians. We have great visions for what our churches can become. When we hope we usually hope for large, accomplished tasks. Here is an example. We hope to one day learn and know Spanish. We might hope to build our dream home. We hope to one day be debt free. You might say "I hope one day to own my own business and be my own boss." When I hear people say these things, it makes my heart smile. I want to say out loud, "You go girl!" It gets all of us excited when we hear of one of us "making it." We hear of dreams, and earnestly desire and pray for our own to be fulfilled.

However, think about this. We *hope* for the *big* but we ought to also hope *in* the *little*. We cannot forget that the big always comes from the little. A huge oak tree grows from a little acorn. A mature happy man comes from a little boy. Every church that is large began as something little. It may have been a little dream or a little idea. Businesses that make large money start out by making small money. An Olympic athlete began as a young person with a dream. Let me say it again. The big grows from the little.

Here is what this means. It means that *seeds are huge*. If you want to grow an oak tree, then acorns become crucial. Large luscious tomatoes grow from tiny, tiny seeds (or seedlings). If then, you want to grow anything big; you need to be seeding like crazy. Some gardeners throw handfuls of seeds out. They understand the process. They look for a good "stand" so they are generous with their seeding. That begs a question. What are you "seeding?" Here's another illustration. If you want to run you must begin by taking steps. A young parent applauds with joy the first step that their toddler takes. It is hard not to envision from these first efforts, a young boy or girl at shortstop. The ability to stand tall begins with that first effort. Every athlete who runs down the basketball court began by stumbling across some living room. Here's another way to look at it. I've noticed that organizations like churches, or businesses, or ball teams have a "spirit." I am talking about the attitude of the team. When you walk into a business or a church, you can feel its attitude or spirit. Is it just me or can you tell when a church is happy? Listening to people talk you can surmise if they have hope. You can also tell if they have no vision or dream or goal. *The "spirit" of a person is invisible, but you can see it.*

Let me say it again. We hope for the big, but we ought to also hope in the little. Little things like steps, seeds and spirits are not small, they are huge!

I love you, and am praying for something big in your life!  
Jerry Rea