

FAITH AND HOPE

INTRO

"And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love," 1 Corinthians 13:13. No one could argue that love is the greatest quality of life, but faith and hope are also important to our lives. These are the three great qualities of life, and we need all three alive and active within us. God is a God of love and faith but also the God of hope Romans 15:13. He can cause hope to not barely exist but abound, overflow, and bubble over in us. Hope is extremely important to faith because faith is the substance of things hoped for. Hope needs faith and faith needs hope.

I. What is Hope?

- A. Definition: A favorable anticipation and confident expectation; to anticipate, expect and usually with pleasure; it is the desire and expectation of good; to desire with expectation of fulfillment; to expect with desire and look forward to.
- B. The Bible speaks of the Blessed Hope Titus 2:13 -- Jesus' appearing for us which gives us something to look forward to, but there is also what I like to call Bible hope or:
 - 1. Hope that comes from the Bible, the Gospel Colossians 1:23.
 - 2. Hope that comes from the Scriptures Romans 15:4.
 - 3. Hope that comes from the promises Ephesians 2:12.
 - 4. Hope that comes from what God says Romans 4:18.
- C. Without this hope, we have no desire, we are not excited, ignited, motivated, or have any drive or energy. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life," Proverbs 13:12.
 - 1. Deferred: Put off, set aside, neglected.
 - 2. Sick: Weak, discouraged.
- D. Hope deals with the unseen and the future Romans 8:25.
 - 1. It gives you the ability to see something not physically visible.
 - 2. It gives the ability to see beyond what is and see what shall be.
 - 3. It paints a picture and image within us internally.

II. Bible Hope (Supernatural Hope) Will Work When All Natural Hope is Gone.

- A. Abraham Romans 4:16-23. Abraham had no hope from what he saw -- Sarah's womb -- or what he felt -- his own body. The natural information showed no hope, but he had hope that came from what God said and what God promised.
- B. Paul Acts 27:20-25. All natural hope was taken away, yet his faith was not disturbed because it was anchored in Bible hope. We need to secure our life in Bible hope because it is both sure (safe/certain) and steadfast (firm and secure) Hebrews 6:19. We need to secure our future and make sure our future with Bible hope.
- C. We are to hold fast to saying what we expect without wavering (Hebrews 10:23), without bending, or be unyielding (faith is the word "hope," Greek "elpis"). We must keep talking our hope so our faith can make it a reality.