

FAITH / HOPE - Zanga Schutte, June 11, 2023

Faith Hebrews 11:6 NIV And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Notes: The essence of faith is believing that God “exists” - He is the all-important “unseen” for faith.

Matthew 17:20 NIV Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Hope -True hope comes from the One who created hope: God. True hope comes by trusting God even when circumstances are difficult. - One way to know whether we are trusting God is whether we are obeying his Word. - Trust produces obedience, which produces hope, which results in joy and peace; and that is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 NIV "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

5 points

1. Hope is Never Lost Romans 8:24-25 NIV ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Notes: We are saved by faith, not hope; but hope confident expectation accompanies salvation.

Hebrews 10:23 NIV Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Notes: We know God will always be there for us. Because He says it in his Word...

Hebrews 13:5 NIV Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.

2. We Can be Confident in Hope Hebrews 11:1 NIV Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Notes: This description of “faith” focuses on an inward attitude (confident “assurance”: a firm, steady conviction) about what is not present but that which we confidently expect (“what we hope for . . . what we do not see”). Faith is spiritual perception—an insight into the unseen—to sense God at work despite obstacles and to obey his word courageously.

Romans 8:28 NIV And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

3. True Hope Comes from God Romans 15:13 NIV May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Notes: Paul asks that the God of hope fill these believers with all joy and peace "in believing" or as they trust in Him. In other words, Paul is not asking God to simply dump joy and peace into their hearts without cause. He is asking that as these believers trust in God, their faith will bring joy and peace to their hearts. In other words, help them to keep believing so that they can experience joy and peace.

-The fulfillment of God's promises which alone secures this unity is the cause for the hope that God gives through the Holy Spirit, that God will continue to be faithful to his promises;

4. Hope is a Gift Romans 5:1-5 NIV ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And 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.

5. Hope Endures

Proverbs 23:18 NIV There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Notes: -Hope that go beyond our present days, our situations, the everyday struggles of this life. -The strongest and enduring Hope is based on God's Word. - the knowledge of the Scripture affects our attitude toward our present and our future.

Romans 8:37-39 NIV ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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