

## Hope

Around the year of 1986, I remember running into the father of some children who were in our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class at Mt. Paran Central. We were both at the same bank. He came up to me and said this. “Larry, I can live without love, I can live without faith, but I cannot live without hope. He had some very serious family problems. I wept.

### **Hebrews 11:1, 2,**

“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony.”

#### **(Hebrews 11:1 AMP)**

“1 NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”

Hope is like the blueprint or the vision given by God for how our situations and lives will turn out. Faith is the actual possession of that blueprint in your heart. Faith comes by hearing God speak (Romans 10:17), and I feel that hope does also. Strong’s concordance defines hope “to anticipate, usually with pleasure.”

### **There seems to be a fine line between faith and hope.**

Faith comes by hearing God speak. Godly hope also comes from God, perhaps by His speaking also in some way. Faith is the **possession of the promise**; it is the “substance” of the promise already living in our hearts. It is a “now thing.”

When we have the promise by faith, it is a done deal! It is something that God has finished before the foundation of the world.

#### **Hebrews 4:1-3,**

“1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest,” **although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**”

We must realize that we are dealing with an Eternal God! And when He puts His hope and faith inside of us they are works that were already finished before the world was created.

### **We will have to wait**

The hope comes to us by God while we are fellowshiping with Him in the Holy of Holies, His presence. We need to know that it is anchored in the Holy of Holies [what does that mean?] so that we do not give up when we have to wait for a long time.

**Hebrews 6:19,**

“19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,”

Once we have God’s hope, the hope we received from Him while fellowshiping in His presence, it is anchored with certainty.

**How can we be sure where our hope has come from?**

If hope is the vision or the blueprint that God gives to us for our lives, then how do we know for sure that vision that we have is from Him, and not just from our own “fleshly” imagination? I am glad you asked!

Here are some ways that we can help determine where our hope of vision is coming from. There are some conditions as stated in these verses below.

**Philippians 2:12, 13,**

“12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”

Notice in the Philippians Scripture that God works in us to will for His good pleasure IF, we are working out our salvation with fear and trembling.

**Psalms 37:4, 5,**

“4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.”

Notice in the Psalms 37 Scripture that God Himself will insert His desires into your heart IF you have committed your way to Him.

**The struggle**

We will have struggles between hope and fear of disappointment. When we are fellowshiping with Him, hope and faith prevail. But when we look at circumstances fear can take over. Worse yet, the Enemy will attempt to magnify that fear.

Stay in fellowship with God in His Word and in prayer and fellowship with other believers. Hope fuels faith. Fear that somehow God will let us down, if not resisted, will make us double minded (James 1:6-8). More often than not God’s ways of dealing with us are not the ways we have expected.

**Isaiah 55:8-11,**

“8 “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD.

9 “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.”

### **Abraham’s hope can be ours through grace!**

#### **Romans 4:18 AMP,**

18 [For Abraham, human reason for] hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been promised, So [numberless] shall your descendants be.

#### **Romans 4:16-25**

“16 Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,

24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”

I am always amazed at how Abraham kept his faith and hope about God’s promise regarding Isaac. After being without child until he and Sarah were beyond childbearing age, God spoke to him about being the father of a multitude. Then after Isaac had matured somewhat, God told Abraham to sacrifice and kill Isaac. Wow! But look at Abraham’s hope and faith even in all of this.

#### **Hebrews 11:17-19,**

“17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,”

19 concluding that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

**Now let us all pray the Abrahamic prayer over our circumstances!**

**Meditate on these hope Scriptures.**

**Hebrews 6:18**

“18 that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.”

**Hebrews 6:11**

“11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,”

**Hebrews 6:18, 19**

“18 that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,”

**Hebrews 7:19**

“19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”

**Hebrews 10:23**

“23 Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.”

## More hope Scriptures

1 Peter 1:3

“3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

1 Peter 1:13

“13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

1 Peter 1:21

“21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

1 Peter 3:15

“15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”

1 John 3:3

“3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Romans 5:2

“2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Romans 5:4, 5

“4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 8:20

“20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;”

Romans 8:24, 25

“24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.”

Romans 12:12

“12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;”

Romans 15:4

“4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Romans 15:12, 13

“12 And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”