

Grace and Faith

March 1, 2020

The Reality of Faith - Sermon Study

1. Read **Rom 1:5... Rom 5:2... Heb 4:2**. How are you seeing grace and faith bringing **results** in your life?
2. What happens when you **praise God** in the midst of trials? Read **2Sam 22:4... Psa 42:5... Jer 17:14... Matt 21:16 (Psa 8:2)**. Do you have a **tendency to do** that? Why or why not? What happens when you keep your **focus on Jesus**? Read **Isa 26:3 GSV**.
3. Read **Heb 11:1**. Explain how **faith and hope** work together? Read **Rom 4:18... Rom 5:2... Rom 12:12... Rom 15:13... Jer 1:1-12... Rom 8:24-25**. Why does hope have to **proceed faith**? What is hope (**elpis**)?
4. How does **faith work thru love**? Is it your love for God or His for you? Read **Rom 8:31-39... Gal 5:6... 1John 4:7-19**. How can we **be sure** of God's love? Read **Jer 31:3... Rom 5:8... 2Thess 3:5**.
5. Besides hope and love... **what else** is needed for faith to work? Read **Heb 6:12**. How well do you think you do with the **patience** thing? Read **James 1:2-8... 1Pet 5:6... 2Pet 3:9**. Is it important?
6. How can you **be certain** what you hope for will come true? Read **2Cor 1:20** and **Heb 6:9-15**. What does that do for your **confidence**? Does it help you stay in the race? Explain.
7. What have you **learned** so far from this series on Grace and Faith? How has it **changed** you? How are you specifically seeing **results** you didn't see before?

Please read entire passages of scripture to get full context. See sermon notes for more info.

Sermon Notes
The Reality of Faith - Heb 11:1

I. Introduction

- a. not just grace, not just faith that brings results... but both...
Rom 1:5... “*grace brings about... the obedience of faith...*”
Rom 5:2... “*obtained access, by faith... into this grace...*”
Heb 4... “*grace was preached... did no good... not mixed with faith...*”
- b. Christian life is a fight (*good*)... don’t quit... praise is best weapon...
Matt 21:16 (Psa 8:2)... “*praise is strength which silences your enemies...*”
Rom 8:32-39... “*in all these troubles... we are more than victorious...*”
Heb 10:38-39... “*don’t turn away... we have faith... obtain life...*”

When we pray, we enter God’s presence. When we praise, He enters ours.
Kenneth Copeland

- c. mind focused on Jesus... start to finish... spirit to soul to body... *pray*...
Isa 26:3 **GSV**... “*you will keep the mind that is fixed on you in perfect soundness, welfare, peace, safety, health, prosperity, contentment...*”
Rom 8... “*carnal mind is death... spiritual is life... to mortal body...*”
Heb 12... “*life of faith... looking to Jesus from start to finish...*”

II. Reality of Faith

- a. faith accesses grace... more faith, more grace... faith never works alone... three powers that work with it to bring results...
Rom 10... “*faith comes by hearing... message about Jesus...*”
Eph 3:8... “*grace given... to proclaim incalculable riches of Messiah...*”
anexichniastos... *cannot be searched out; cannot be comprehended...*
- b. **Hope**
everything that faith does starts with hope (*dream, vision, goal*)...
Heb 11:1... “*faith is reality of what is hoped for... proof of not seen...*”
- c. faith works in hope... before I can access grace thru faith... must have hope (*confident expectation of good*) that it will work...
Rom 4:18... “*against hope, with hope... did not waver in unbelief...*”
Rom 5:2... “*access by faith... into this grace... rejoice in hope...*”
Rom 12:12... “*rejoice in hope... patient in trouble... persist in prayer...*”
Rom 15:13... “*God of hope fill with joy and peace... as you believe...*”
elpis... *confident expectation of good...*

Do not look just to hope... but to Christ, the source of your hope. CH Spurgeon

Christ’s love to us, not our love to Christ, is the true source of hope. JC Ryle

- d. hope, faith, then results... no hope, no results... speak what you want to see according to His Word... keep dreaming... teach kids to dream...
 Jer 1:1-12... “*what do you see... I see _____... you have seen correctly, I watch over My Word to accomplish it (hasten to perform)...*”
 Rom 8:24-25... “*in this hope we were saved... hope that is seen is not hope... who hopes for what he sees... eagerly wait for with patience...*”
sozo... keep safe, rescue from danger; make well, heal, restore to health...
- e. **Love**
 faith also works thru love... not yours, but His... are you convinced of it... devil’s main attack is to separate you from God’s love (no results)...
 Rom 8:31-39... “*nothing can separate us from love of God in Christ...*”
 Gal 5:6... “*in Christ... what matters is faith working thru love...*”
 1John 4:7-19... “*love is this... He first loved us... believe God’s love...*”
- f. faith only works when you know and believe God’s love for you... bad stuff comes... don’t doubt God’s love... then faith works thru love...
 Jer 31:3... “*I have loved you with an everlasting love...*”
 Rom 5:8... “*God proves His love... while sinners, Christ died for us...*”
 Eph 2:4-5... “*because of His great love... made us alive with Jesus...*”
 2Thess 3:5... “*may the Lord direct your hearts to God’s love...*”
- g. **Patience**
 faith works in hope... thru love... with patience...
 Heb 6:12... “*imitate those... with faith and patience inherit promises...*”
- f. stop trying to manipulate God... let faith work with patience...
 Jam 1:2-8... “*testing of faith produces patience... let patience have its perfect work... that you may be complete... lacking nothing...*”
 1Pet 5:6... “*humble yourselves... so God may exalt you in due time...*”
hupsoo... raise to summit of prosperity; raise to dignity, honor, happiness...
 2Pet 3:9... “*Lord does not delay promise... as some understand delay...*”
- g. probably won’t get all answers right now... why hasn’t God done this or that for me... great freedom in saying, *I don’t know, but...*
 1Cor 8:2... “*anyone thinks he knows anything... doesn’t yet know it...*”
 2Cor 1:20... “*all God’s promises yes in Christ... why we say amen...*”
- h. when stuff happens... endurance and patience are both needed to stay in race... both allow you to stand strong in God’s love...
 Heb 6:9-15... “*confident you are meant for better things... God will not forget your work and how you cared for believers... keep on loving others... in order to make certain what you hope for will come true...*”
- i. how long from SD to WY... walk, drive, fly... can’t answer *until you get there*... how long for results... *until you get there*... reality is, faith works in hope, thru love, with patience... but it always works...
pray...

Expect Good Things

Eph 6:17... *take the helmet of salvation...*

When the phone rings in the middle of the night... most people think, *it must be bad news*. They don't often think... *I wonder what the good news is that it can't wait until morning!!*

When we hear... *the boss wants to see you...* instinctively we think... *oh man, this is not good*. But how do we know that it is not going to be about a promotion and a raise?

Our minds are often inclined toward the negative. So to guard our minds against negative thoughts... we are to put on the *helmet of salvation...* which is the *hope of salvation*. **1Thess 5:8.**

If you are going thru a trial... or difficulty right now... putting on *the helmet of the hope of salvation* means you have a confident expectation of good coming your way. It means you choose to believe this trial you are going thru is only temporary because God will see you thru it. It means you believe this difficult period will end with your salvation... your preservation, wholeness, wellness, and health!! **Heb 6:9-15.**

You may not know what is going to happen this week. But one thing you can do is put on the helmet of the hope of salvation and tell yourself you are going to have a fantastic week!!

Well, Pastor, you never know what to expect. There is so much bad news these days... about our economy... sickness and disease... wars, terrorist attacks... everything is bad. I really hope I don't get laid off or sick... I am keeping my fingers crossed.

Don't speak that way. Life and death is in the power of the tongue. **Prov 18:21.**

Biblical hope is not, *I hope so*. It is, *I know so*. You can have a confident expectation of good happening to you because you are not like the people of the world. You are a child of the living God. You have a Savior watching over and interceding for you. There are more angels given charge over you than there are demons against you... and *He that is in you, is greater than he that is in the world*. **1John 4:4.** So, start hoping. Start expecting good... that's what biblical hope is all about.

Pastor Joseph Prince

Hope that Does Not Disappoint

Rom 5:5... *hope does not disappoint... love of God poured into hearts...*

Today, we express hope as if we can't be sure of what will really happen. We say,

*I hope I'll win the lottery.
I hope it won't snow tomorrow.
I hope everything works out well.*

But hope in the Bible is a far different thing. Bible hope is a confident and positive expectation of good. God wants you to have a confident expectation of good because as His child, He favors you. Because Christ is in you... *the hope of glory...* you can expect the glory of God to shine into every area of your life... including your family, job, ministry, health and finances.

God's word says... *hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.*

Rom 5:5. You may have experienced times when certain hopes have disappointed you... but there is a hope that does not disappoint. That hope comes when you are conscious of how much God loves you. It is a hope that springs from the heart of God... who loves you more than you can know.

It's interesting that the first mention of the Holy Spirit in the book of Romans is tied up with the love of God. Romans is considered foundational for Christians.

Could it be that the first thing the Holy Spirit wants to do is to establish in our hearts that God loves us? Many people think that the Holy Spirit came to teach us about power. But the truth is that the Holy Spirit has come not to reveal the love for power... but the power of love!!

You may have just lost your job... but if you can say, *Jesus loves me this I know...* you can also say... *I believe God will provide me with a better job in due time.* Your body and health may be suffering with sickness... but because you can say... *Jesus loves me...* you can also say, *by His stripes I have been healed.*

When you believe that God loves you... you will have a positive expectation of good. You will have a hope that does not disappoint. So be careful of what you hope for... because you are bound to get it!!

Pastor Joseph Prince