

# HOPE IS FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

## I. WHAT IS FAITH?

A. Faith means you are trusting God, relying on Him, depending on Him. It means you are not trusting yourself. Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 17:7

B. Faith is essential for your life. You are saved by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). You please God by faith (Hebrews 11:6). You are to live by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). You accomplish God's will by faith (Galatians 3:1-5). You successfully go through trials by faith (James 1:2-3). You have joy by faith (Romans 15:13).

## II. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND HOPE – Hebrews 11:1-5

A. Hope is a result of trusting God's promises for the future.

B. The saints of old gained God's approval because they were believing His promises about how He wanted to bless them in the future.

## III. THE ESSENTIALS OF FAITH – Hebrews 11:6

A. Faith means you are believing God exists.

B. Faith means you are not self-seeking, but are wanting to please God.

C. Faith means you are seeking God, and are asking and believing God to bless you, to give you what is good, and particularly as it relates to the future.

## IV. EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO HAD FAITH, AND HOPE – Hebrews 11:7-38

A. Noah built an ark so he and his family would be saved from judgment. Verse 7

B. Abraham believed God would bless him, that he would receive an inheritance. By faith he had hope. His faith in God gave him hope, and this kept him going, kept him persevering. He was not worldly, but heavenly minded. He believed God would raise people from the dead. Verses 8-19, John 14:1-3

C. Isaac and Jacob believed God would bless them in the future. Verses 20-21

D. Joseph believed that God had a future for him and the Jews. Verse 22

E. Moses made the choices he made because he had faith - he believed God's promises that He would bless him. "*He was looking to the reward.*" Verses 23-29

F. Old Testament saints believed that God had something better in store for them. They fought, they were tortured, were prisoners, were stoned to death, were sawn in two, were ill-treated, were homeless, and all for God. Verses 32-38

#### V. OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS AND CHURCH AGE SAINTS – Hebrews 11:39-40

A. Old Testament saints are examples to us in faith and hope. Matthew 6:9-10, 33

B. What God did in the past, and what He is now doing during this church age, will be seen during the millennial kingdom. Then all believers from all time will together inherit God's promises. Romans 15:8-13, Psalm 47, Matthew 5:3

#### VI. TRUSTING GOD FOR TODAY

A. Knowing that God has an inheritance for us in the future should motivate us to work hard for Him while we are living on this earth.

B. It's important to think and pray about the plans God has for you in this life, plans that will result in future blessing. Philippians 3:12-14, Jeremiah 29:11-13

C. God has planned out ahead of time the work He has for you. This relates to the future He has for you on this earth, as well as your eternal future. Ephesians 2:10

D. God has purposes and plans for your life. If you don't have His vision for your life, then you will do what you want – you will be lawless and worthless. Proverbs 29:18

E. You need to have faith in God for today, to believe God wants to bless you today, knowing that what you do today relates to the future God has for you. 1 Cor. 15:58

F. Every day God shows you His goodness and love in so many ways. Every day, you need to get up and believe that God will bless you on that day. Psalm 23:6

G. In the morning believe that God will show you His love during the day, and then at night, look back over the day and see how He has blessed you. Psalm 92:1-2

YOU HAVE COME TO MOUNT ZION AND TO THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD,  
THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM, AND TO MYRIADS OF ANGELS,  
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN  
WHO ARE ENROLLED IN HEAVEN, AND TO GOD, THE JUDGE OF ALL,  
AND TO THE SPIRITS OF THE RIGHTEOUS MADE PERFECT,  
AND TO JESUS THE MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT.

Hebrews 9:27-28, 10:37, 11:10, 12:22-24