

Fundamentals Of Faith

(Faith's Friends – Love, Hope, and Patience)

Love

We are saved by grace through faith alone but not by a faith that stands alone.

Faith works in cooperation with other spiritual forces – love, hope, and patience.

Faith works by love.

I Corinthians 13:13 – “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Galatians 5:6 – “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

Faith works through love. Many have taught that faith works by our love for others. This is not what this verse is saying. This verse is saying that our faith works by God's love to us. When we know how much we are loved, then faith operates like it should.

You can't have confidence and assurance in someone when you don't know their attitude or stance towards you. You can't trust someone that is possibly hostile to you. Many people tend to think that God is hostile towards them. These will have trouble with faith.

Romans 5:8 – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

I John 4:9-10 – “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Ephesians 6:23 – “Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

God's love and faith come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. They are both given together to us.

Jude 1:20-21 – “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Hope

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith can't operate without hope. Faith is the substance of what is hoped for.

Hope is the spiritual reality of what God has for us. Faith makes that a natural reality on earth.

Hope is similar to providing blueprints, but faith builds the building.

Faith and hope are not the same thing. Now abides faith, hope, and love. **(1 Corinthians 13:13)**

Hope is a confident expectation for future good. Faith is always now. Now faith **IS. (Hebrews 11:1)**

Many say they are hoping they will be healed but they don't experience healing. When this happens, faith usually gets a bad rap. They will say, "Faith did not work." No, faith does work, but in their case, faith was not necessarily working. They were hoping. Hope is great, but it needs faith to bring manifestation of that hope into the natural.

Hope precedes faith.

Ephesians 1:12-13 – "That we who first trusted [hoped] in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted [hoped], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,"

The first thing that comes when you hear the Word of God is hope. Then faith comes and brings that hope into natural manifestation.

The Story of Abraham

Genesis 15:2-6 – "But Abram said, 'Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' Then Abram said, 'Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!' And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.' Then He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."

If what you see on the inside of you is the exact same thing you see on the outside of you, then what is on the outside will remain the same.

If you want to see something different on the outside, change what you see on the inside!

Once you release your faith in what you are hoping for, often there is a time frame before it is manifested. Hope is what sustains your faith until you see it manifested.

Romans 15:13 – "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."

Patience

Faith must have the assistance of patience to receive the promises God has for us.

Hebrews 6:12 – “That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Hebrews 10:36 (KJV) – “For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”

We can see that patience is connected to receiving God’s promises by faith.

There is often a time period between “I believe I receive” and “There it is in manifestation.”

The fruit of patience keeps us steady.

Genesis 8:22 – There is seed – TIME – and harvest.

Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Hope works together with patience to aid our faith.

Seed takes time to bear fruit.

Luke 8:15 – “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

The bamboo tree – In the Far East, there is a tree called the Chinese bamboo tree. This remarkable tree is different from most trees in that it doesn’t grow in the usual fashion. While most trees grow steadily over a period of years, the Chinese bamboo tree doesn’t break through the ground for the first four years. Then, in the fifth year, an amazing thing happens – the tree begins to grow at an astonishing rate. In fact, in a period of just five weeks, a Chinese bamboo tree can grow to a height of 90 feet. It’s almost as if you can actually see the tree growing before your very eyes.

Key Thoughts

A. Faith will not work if we don’t know God’s love towards us.

B. Hope precedes faith and sustains it.

C. Patience will hold us steady during the time duration from receiving by faith and it manifesting in the natural.