

Flourishing in the Kingdom – Faith & Hope

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.06

Bible Study

- Relationship between faith & hope – scriptural evidence
 - Heb 11:1, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
 - 1 Co 13:13, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
 - 1 Th 1:3, “We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Gal 5:5, “But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.”
 - Col 1:4-5a, ⁴ “... because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints ⁵ ... that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven....”
 - Tit 1:2a, “... a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life....”
- Faith, key Greek words
 - *pistis* (Gk, n): strong confidence in and reliance upon someone or something
 - *pistos* (Gk, adj): characterized by consistent affection or allegiance (to someone or something)
 - *pisteuo* (Gk, v): to believe, to trust
- God’s faithfulness
 - Ro 3:3-4a, ³ “What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness? ⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar.”
 - 1 Co 1:9 & 18, “God ... is faithful”
 - 1 Pet 4:19, “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”
- Jesus’ faithfulness
 - Heb 3:6a, “But Christ is faithful as a son over God’s house.”
 - Heb 12:2a, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith....”
 - “author” (Gk, n, *archegos*): initiator, founder, originator; especially understood as someone having made a breakthrough in some area
 - In what ways is Jesus the initiator, founder or originator of our faith?
 - What breakthrough did he make relevant to our faith?
 - “perfecter” (Gk, n, *teleiotes*): a person who brings something to completion without defect or blemish
 - In what ways is Jesus the perfecter of our faith?

- Rev 1:5, "... and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth."
 - "witness" (Gk n, *martys*): a person who makes a solemn statement (under oath) concerning their beliefs, resulting in their death
 - To what was Jesus a witness and how was he faithful to his role as a witness?
- Our faith
 - "our faith," "your faith," & "my faith": 45 times
 - Gal 5:22, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..."
 - "faithfulness" (Gk, n, *pistis*), "faith" or "faithfulness"
- God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – is the source of our faith
 - Eph 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."
 - "gift" (Gk, n, *doron*): something transferred to a person as an object to be received without compensation
 - If I give you a gift, who does it belong to after I give it to you?
 - Eph 6:23, "Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Who originates faith?
 - 1 Co 12:8-9 "To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom ... to another faith by the same Spirit ..."
 - "given" (Gk, v, *didomi*): to be or become in one's possession
 - "through" (Gk, prep, *dia*): by, through, because of
 - "Spirit" (Gk, n, *pneuma*): breath, wind, spirit
- How to develop our faith/faithfulness
 - 1 Tim 6:11 "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith ..."
 - "faith" (Gk, n, *pistis*): faith, faithfulness
 - "pursue" (Gk, v, *dioko*): to strive for something; pursue with intent to catch it
 - Jas 2:22 "You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did."
 - "faith" (Gk, n, *pistis*): faith, faithfulness
 - "actions" (Gk, n, *ergon*): work, deed, action
 - "complete" (Gk, v, *teleioo*): to finish, complete, perfect; without defect or blemish
 - How can we develop our faith/faithfulness?
- What faith does for us
 - Acts 15:9 "He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith."
 - "purified" (Gk, v, *katharizo*): purify, cleanse
 - "hearts" (Gk, v, *kardia*): heart; representing one's will, conscience, true nature

- Acts 26:18c, "... those who are sanctified by faith in me."
 - "sanctified" (Gk, v, *hagiazō*): to make holy; to set apart as dedicated to God
- Rom 3:28 "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law."
 - "justified" (Gk, v, *dikaioō*): to acquit, vindicate, justify, declare righteous
- Heb 6:12 "We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised."
 - "inherit" (Gk, v, *kleronomeō*): to gain possession by legal right as an heir
- Jas 1:2-3 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."
 - "trials" (Gk, n, *peirasmos*): test, close examination, trial
 - "testing" (Gk, n, *dokimion*): proof of authenticity
 - "faith": faith, faithfulness, trustworthiness
- Hope, key Greek words
 - *elpis* (Gk, n): a reasonable and confident expectation of a future event
 - *elpizo* (Gk, v): to confidently and reasonably expect a future event
- Objects of our hope
 - Acts 23:6, "hope in the resurrection of the dead"
 - Ro 5:2, "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."
 - 2 Co 1:10c, "On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us."
 - Gal 5:5, "the righteousness for which we hope"
 - 1 Th 5:8, "the hope of salvation"
 - 1 Tim 1:1, "Christ Jesus our hope"
 - Tit 1:2, "the hope of eternal life"
 - Tit 2:13, "... while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."
 - 1 Pet 1:21, "so your faith and hope are in God."
- Source of our hope
 - Ro 15:13a, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..."
 - "hope" (Gk, n, *elpis*)
 - "trust" (Gk, v, *pisteuo*): to believe, put faith in
 - Who is the source of hope according to this verse?
- Results of our hope
 - Ro 8:24-25, ²⁴ "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."
 - In verse 24, why is hope a factor in salvation?
 - According to verse 25, what does hope motivate us to do?
 - How can we do that?

- 2 Co 3:12, “Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.”
 - “bold” (Gk, n, *parresia*): (1) willingness to undertake activities that involve risk or danger; (2) openness, candor, freedom of speech or action
- Heb 6:19a, “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”
 - “anchor”: figurative reference to a literal anchor
 - “soul” (Gk, n, *psyche*): oneself, one’s life; used generally as reference to a person
 - What function does an anchor perform?
 - How might hope serve as an anchor for your life?
- How to develop our hope
 - Ro 5:3-4, ³ “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.”
 - “rejoice” (Gk, v, *kauchaomai*): to display or declare publicly a satisfied contentment with one’s achievements; to boast
 - “sufferings” (Gk, n, *thlipsis*): distress, affliction, hardship, tribulation (KJV)
 - Does this mean we should brag about our troubles?
- What hope motivates us to do
 - 1 Jn 3:2-3, ² “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”
 - What is the hope that motivates us to purify ourselves, according to verse 2?
 - Ro 4:18, “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, ‘So shall your offspring be.’”
 - What precedent did Abraham set for us, according to this verse?
 - Has God spoken to you about what he will do in a seemingly impossible situation?

Questions

- How does the combination of faith and hope contribute to our covenant relationship with God?
- How do faith and hope together apply to our activity in the kingdom?
- How do faith and hope apply to our interaction with evil spirits?

Conclusion

- Our faith in God is a strong confidence in and reliance upon him
- Our hope is a reasonable and confident expectation of what he will do
- Our faith and hope form a powerful combination