

Hope

Part 1

Jimmy Harris

July 1, 2018

Review —

- For the past 8 weeks we have been learning about Faith. We learned about how Faith works — it works because you have to do it — and because it has powerful effect!

Today — In 1 Corinthians 13 —

Paul lists the 3 defining character traits of a disciple of Jesus.

Faith — Hope — Love

For the next five weeks we will be learning how to live a life abounding in HOPE!

- We are praying and believing that over the coming weeks there is going to be an explosion of HOPE that *recharges us, renews us, refreshes us*, and *gives us courage* to run the race that God has marked out for us!

Clarifying the difference between faith and hope

- **Word Study:**
- **Yachal** — Hebrew word that sounds like yaw-chal' and means to **wait patiently**.
- **Elpis** — Greek word that sounds like “el pece” and means to have **joyful anticipation**
Old Testament — Trust God and **wait patiently**.
New Testament — Trust Jesus and move forward with **joyful anticipation**.
- **Aren't faith and hope the same thing? No!**

We know it is a separate concept because the word of God is very clear.

- **1 Corinthians 13:13**
And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- **How exactly does faith relate to hope?**
... Analogy: Faith is like a car and Hope is like gasoline.
- If **Faith** is a car, you have to get into it, and you have to drive it to get anywhere.
If you sit on top of it, it's not going to do anything. Faith works. It goes, requires work.
- **Hope** is like gasoline in your tank. Without it, you aren't getting far.
If you choose to follow Jesus, you will struggle.
At times you will be operating in faith, and you will begin to lose hope.

- If you don't stop for gas, it won't be long before you are off course, on the side of the road, or stuck somewhere all alone.
- Without **hope**, our **faith** will falter and fall short.
- If **faith** starts us into the race — **hope** will carry us to the finish line!

Hope does not come naturally — we have to preach it to ourselves.

***David preached hope to himself in Psalm 42:5
He is talking to himself when he says;***

- **Psalm 42:5**
Why, my soul, are you downcast?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.
- **Hoping in God does not come naturally** for sinners like us.
- We must preach it to ourselves, and preach diligently and forcefully, or we will give way to helplessness, or drift into a hopeless place.
- When you get up in the morning, wake up your heart with hope
- **You can't be a victim and abound in hope at the same time.**
Because of the resurrection power of Jesus; hope is attached to the promise of Jesus Christ
- **We need hope. It's like air. We can't live without hope!**

Victor Frankl learned this in the concentration camps — that the prisoner who lost faith in the future — his future — was doomed. With his loss of belief in the future, he also lost his spiritual hold; he let himself decline and became subject to mental and physical decay. Frankl talks about one inmate that had a dream that the war would be over on March 30th. He told this to Frankl at the beginning of the month and had hopes that his dream was a premonition that would come true. However, on the 29th, when no sense of an ending was coming, this inmate became ill. On March 31st, Frankl writes that “his prophecy came true and he died.” The war was over for him. To all outward appearances, he had died of typhus.

It wasn't typhus that had killed him. It was his loss of hope.

The Scriptures build our hope

- **Romans 15:4**
For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide **we might have hope.**

What are some things that Scripture says about hope?

- You can seize hold of hope! (**Hebrews 6:18**).
- The Holy Spirit is a source of continual hope, for His power causes hope to abound (**Romans 15:13**).
- Hope comes as a gift from God through grace (**2 Thessalonians 2:16**).
- Hope leads to joy (**Romans 12:12**), boldness (**2 Corinthians 3:12**), and faith and love (**Colossians 1:4-5**).
- Hope also leads to comfort. We are to encourage one another with the knowledge of the resurrection (**1 Thessalonians 4:18**).
- Hope has a sanctifying effect. We know that when we see Jesus we shall become like him, purify ourselves “as he is pure” (**1 John 3:3**).
- Hope also stimulates good works (**1 Corinthians 15:51-58**).

Why do you need to pay attention to hope?

- **Proverbs 13:12**
Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.
 - Notice that **hope** is directly related to our **hearts**.
 - It is the **why** behind the **what**. You better pay attention to it.
 - If we don't seize hold of **hope** we will lose **heart**.

What is hope?

Anchor verse for this series is:

- **1 Peter 1:3-5**
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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1. Hope is the joyous anticipation of good.

- **Jeremiah 29:11**
For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

- We don't anticipate good things from God because we don't believe truly that God is good, and that he has good to spare.
- God is abundant. His cup runs over!
- **Hope is *not* Superstitious.** (*I wish, or I want*)
It is *more* than that— it is *real* — it is forged in experience.
You can't fake real hope. Real hope — you HAVE it or you don't.
- **It is Not Positive thinking.**
It's better than positive thinking!
Positive thinking is pretending your way into reality.
Hope is based in the goodness of God.

2. Hope is the fuel for our faith.

It moves us from the present reality to our future glory.

- Fuel empowers — it moves us — it gets us where we need to go.
- Prodigal son in Luke 15 he goes home with just a little hope.

3. Hope is putting your trust in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

- **Philippians 1:19-21**

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my **earnest expectation and hope** that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- **Hope allowed Paul to write letters of joy while he was in prison**

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (*most pitied*)**

¹² Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. ¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

- **Hope is forged in suffering. – It is sure even in the darkest times**

- **Lamentations 3:19-26**

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall.

I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

- **Hope that is put in Jesus will keep you as you wait it builds and grows...**
- **Romans 5:1-5**
“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 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.”

4. Hope is an anchor for our souls.

- **Hebrews 6:20**
This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
- **Hymn:** “*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.*”¹
- Want an anchor? Your hope goes beyond the veil...
- Like Abraham, lived by faith — he also seized hold of hope — what does that look like to trust in God’s promises and “**seize the hope set before us**” (Hebrews 6:18)

Where are you today?

Need some fresh hope?

Maybe you are **cruising** down the road, gas tank is full of hope, and it feels like you will never run out of gas.... **Pay attention.**

Your car has a “you need gas” light that comes on waaaay before you actually run out.

Maybe you are running **low on hope**...

Maybe you are **on the side of the road**, and hope seems a long way off in the distance.

¹ “The Solid Rock,” Edward Mote, Lyrics; William B. Bradbury, Music

In this series I am confident that...

...If you are running low on hope...

...If you need fresh wind in your sails...

...If you are struggling with something that has you discouraged...

These messages will be like

...pulling over

...getting filled up

...and going boldly to live a life abounding in hope!

Discussion Questions

1. Aren't faith and hope the same thing?
 2. How does faith relate to hope?
 3. How can you preach hope to yourself?
 4. How is hope directly related to the heart?
Have you experienced that personally?
 5. Do you joyously anticipate God doing good things in your life?
Why or why not?
 6. What makes hope an anchor for your soul?
-