

Faith, Hope, and Love (part 2)

Samuel H. Nodal (thank you Matt Hagee)

Faith, Hope, and Love...

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:12,13)

ESV

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father: (1 Th. 1:3)

They Work Together as One (abide) but each one is different!

***Faith** - is something you have and that you give to God! Faith is the energy within you to do God's work. Without it you cannot please God.*

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

***Hope** - is what you have for or in the Word of God! We know God cannot lie and has the power to make His promises come to pass.*

So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. (Heb. 6:18)

“Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. (Is. 46:8-11) ESV

I pray in Faith because my Hope is founded in an all powerful God who cannot lie and has never failed once! I continually pray because I Know He Loves me. This brings us to the last topic, (LOVE).

Love - Love is the greatest because that one comes directly from Him! Faith is what we do because I know He'll keep His promise toward me, and Love is what makes it all work because it comes from Him. If He didn't love me He wouldn't listen to me, if He didn't love me he wouldn't keep His promise to me. When I pray I can believe on Him, put my hope in Him and know that His love for me will bring it to pass.

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

(1 John 4:16) ESV

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:39) NASB

The Lord is not slack concerning His promises (2 Pet. 3:9). This means if God told you something He will bring it to pass, His reputation hangs on it. He may not do it on your time schedule but you can bet your life it will come to pass. The problem is not with God the problem resides with us. We want to receive the promise our way not His. The Bible is full of examples; Daniel in the Lions Den, Abrahams promise of a Son, the 3 Hebrew children thrown in the kings oven, Davids promised Throne of Israel, if God had shown the future to these men beforehand they would have certainly screwed things up.

So then, **my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining or arguments.**

(Phil. 2:12-14) NASB

We must realize that whenever you Trust God and make a commitment to Him, you are going to be tested. Your faith and your testimony must endure till the end. If it falls short you will be disqualified (1 Cor. 9:27).

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence (not works) and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

(Heb. 3:6)

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence (not works) stedfast unto the end. (Heb. 3:14)

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children (Bastards) and not sons. (Heb. 12:7,8) ESV

If anyone tells you won't get tested for placing your faith in Christ and that your life will be so sweet, that man is a liar or an idiot at best. That's why the prosperity gospel (and the likes) are so dangerous. Of course God wants you to prosper and have good things but it will come with the price of Faith, and Perseverance.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (Heb. 10:23) ESV

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has ignored the Law of Moses is put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severe punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:26-31) NASB

Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance (patience), so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (Heb. 10:35,36) ESV

We must learn to Trust God with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. People get their faith and hope all mixed up. They want their prayers to manifest by the end of the week. If it doesn't happen they get angry at God for being an unfaithful Father. What they don't understand is God knows everything (past, present, and future) and what you want may not be good for you at that moment in time so He has to change you and prepare you for it. God's timing is just as important as the promise, without the proper time the promise will not have the right and proper impact.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

(Prov. 3:5-10)

God will never force you to do something, He is a perfect gentleman. But, He will let you go your own way if you are stubborn and refuse His advice. And after you've walked for many miles in wrongful decisions and fruitless roads He'll lead you back to the original road He called you to and start again. Think of the pain, the lost time, and blessings you could have had if only you obeyed.

How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil. (Prov. 1:22-33)

If we are stubborn with God He will let you go through the Vally of Death and teach us obedience and wisdom. He'll let you go through the paths of suffering and pain while protecting you from the evil one and his enemies. God will let us go through some difficult situations to prove His power and authority over all things. A Psalm of David 23:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.