

Faith, Hope, Love

I. Introduction

- A. The Holy Spirit through Paul demonstrated the value of faith, hope, and love in 1 Corinthians 13. Consider some teachings of Scripture connected to these three things. **1 Corinthians 13:13**

II. Faith: the Christian's Foundation

- A. The life of faithful Christians could well be summarized in the statement "we walk by faith, not by sight." **2 Corinthians 5:7**
- B. As this statement demonstrates, faith involves seeing the unseen (cf. **2 Cor. 4:18**). In fact, faith includes "a conviction of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1**
- C. Such a conviction is not baseless, but is grounded on God's Word. **Romans 10:17; John 20:29-31**
- D. This conviction of things not seen leads us to trust what God says is true, regardless of whether or not worldly "wisdom" agrees. Faith involves not only believing *in* God, but also believing *God*. **Joshua 6:1-5**
- E. Unwaveringly trusting God is proven through obedience to His commands. Saving faith is obedient faith. **Hebrews 11:30**
- F. The strength of faith God demands of us leads to obedience to *all* of God's will for us, no matter the difficulty of choosing this path. **Hebrews 11:32-34** (cf. **Dan. 6:10; 3:16-18**)

III. Hope: the Christian's Anchor

- A. In addition to a conviction of things not seen, faith also includes "assurance of things *hoped* for." **Hebrews 11:1**
- B. The object of biblical hope is heaven. Having an assurance of things hoped for thus involves a confident expectation that heaven will become a reality for the righteous, just as God has said. **Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:13**
- C. The basis for this expectation is God's faithfulness and the resurrection of His Son. Jesus was the first to be raised never to die again. Because *He* was raised, we can trust that on the Day of Judgment, the righteous of all ages will be raised to eternal life *with* Him. **1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Peter 3:10**
- D. Besides trusting that this Day will become a reality, we should be ready for, look forward to, and *earnestly desire* the coming of the Day of Judgment, when hope will become reality. **2 Peter 3:11-12; Matthew 6:19-20**
- E. Eagerly looking forward to heaven allows for the deep sense of hope described in Scripture. This hope anchors the soul. *Hymns for Worship, Song 254; Hebrews 6:19*

IV. Love: the Christian's Motivation

- A. The "greatest" of 1 Corinthians 13:13 is love. God-pleasing love is the motivation for obedience. **Matthew 22:36-40**
- B. Love must be properly directed. *Misdirected* love can cause *harm*, rather than good. **1 Timothy 6:10; 1 John 2:15**
- C. The supreme example of properly directed love is God. His love led Him to *give* His Son for us. **John 3:16**
- D. His love for us should motivate us to love *Him* by giving *ourselves* wholly to His will. **1 John 4:19; 5:3; John 14:15**
- E. His love should also motivate us to love others. Such love involves seeking others' highest good. It is proven by action, and must be sincere. **1 John 4:11; 3:16-18; Mark 10:21-22**