

Abundant Life: Hope The Anchor of our Souls

When our hope is in God our faith endures!

The ABCs of Faith

Step One: Accept

- The process of faith begins by accepting what God has spoken.
- Faith comes by hearing, hearing the word of God!

Step Two: Believe

- For faith to continue to manifest after hearing/accepting/taking it in, it must enter the next phase of believing. What is the evidence of believing? Hope!
- It's not believing without hope, which is the positive expectation to see God do what He promised.

Step Three: Create

- The final phase of faith is when what we have accepted and believed leads us to obey what we've heard, resulting in the manifestation/creation of our hope and glory for God

Faith to the Finish

Isaiah 55:10-11

New Living Translation

10 "The rain and snow come down from the heavens
and stay on the ground to water the earth.

They cause the grain to grow,
producing seed for the farmer
and bread for the hungry.

11 It is the same with my word.
I send it out, and it always produces fruit.
It will accomplish all I want it to,
and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Faith is powered by God's unfailing word, unbreakable promises, and anchored by the fact that He cannot lie.

Heartsick

As amazing as God is, and as powerful as the measure and gift of faith are, we can still find ourselves heart sick at times.

Proverbs 13:12 New Living Translation

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.

Hebrews 11:1 New King James Version

11 Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen.

- "Faith is!"
- Faith does not stand alone, it is something.
- Faith is the invisible thing you're hoping for, the thing you're hoping and believing for God to do that hasn't happened yet.
- So without hope there is no faith!
- How many of you are still using your faith right now for something that hasn't happened yet?

Psalms 42 New Living Translation

1 As the deer longs for streams of water,
so I long for you, O God.
2 I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I go and stand before him?
3 Day and night I have only tears for food,
while my enemies continually taunt me, saying,
"Where is this God of yours?"
4 My heart is breaking
as I remember how it used to be:

I walked among the crowds of worshipers,
leading a great procession to the house of God,
singing for joy and giving thanks
amid the sound of a great celebration!

5 Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Savior and 6 my God!

Now I am deeply discouraged,
but I will remember you—
even from distant Mount Hermon, the source of the Jordan,
from the land of Mount Mizar.

7 I hear the tumult of the raging seas
as your waves and surging tides sweep over me.

8 But each day the Lord pours his unfailing love upon me,
and through each night I sing his songs,
praying to God who gives me life.

9 “O God my rock,” I cry,
“Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I wander around in grief,
oppressed by my enemies?”

10 Their taunts break my bones.
They scoff, “Where is this God of yours?”

11 Why am I discouraged?
Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!
I will praise him again—
my Savior and my God!

- Hope delayed makes our hearts sick.
- If the enemy can separate us from our hope in God, it makes our faith ineffective, why?
- Because faith is our active hope, when hope is active faith is alive.
- The enemy wants to steal, kill, and destroy us so he’s coming after your faith, but in order to take out your faith he has to remove your hope.
- Does this through your sight. Your carnal perception.

- Our response:
2 Corinthians 5:7 New King James Version
7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
- He does it through tormenting thoughts and the voices of fear and doubt.
- Our response:
2 Corinthians 10:5 King James Version
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
- **Isaiah 26:3 New King James Version**
3 You will keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

The temptation of Jesus showed us that the devil knows the Bible. He knows if he can get you to violate scripture he can separate you from the blessings of God! Faith comes from hearing God's word, fear comes from hearing the devil's words. If you actively listen to both it creates a double mind!

James 1:2-8 New King James Version

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces [a]patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be [b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- By inserting doubt into our lives the enemy causes us to be unstable in our faith and like a wave driven and tossed by the wind.
- Positioning us to receive nothing from God.
- So we need an anchor!
- "My faith needs an anchor!"

Hope, the Anchor for our Souls!

Hebrews 6:13-20 New Living Translation

God's Promises Bring Hope

13 For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying: 14 "I will certainly bless you, and I will multiply your descendants beyond number." [a]

15 Then Abraham waited patiently, and he received what God had promised.

16 Now when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it. And without any question that oath is binding. 17 God also bound himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that he would never change his mind. 18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. 19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. 20 Jesus has already gone in there for us. He has become our eternal High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Ephesians 2:11-13 New Living Translation

Oneness and Peace in Christ

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. 12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. 13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

Our Hope is Christ in Us!

Colossians 1:26-28 New King James Version

26 the [a]mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: [b]which is Christ

in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

- Our hope is Christ in us, the word in us!
- Rivers of living water!
- When the source of hope is scarce the heart becomes sick!
- **Proverbs 13:12 New Living Translation**
12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.
- Jesus is the One who fulfills our dreams, He is the tree of life.
- Trust and obey His word!
- He loves you!

Romans 15:13 New Living Translation

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus is the hope for the downcast.
- Jesus is the hope for the sick.
- Jesus is the hope for the poor.

