

Three Things to Know

Ephesians 1:15–19

One of the greatest needs of Christianity today is for Christians to really know God. In our passage, Paul prays that his readers will know God's power in three areas of their lives.

1. A Prayer for _____ (18)

2. A Prayer for _____ (18)

3. A Prayer for _____ (19)

Power words: Paul exhausts the resources of the Greek language.

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

*Do you really **know** Jesus? Or do you just **know about** Jesus?*

***See pages 2 and 3 of this document for the difference between faith and hope**

Email "Messages"

✉ Inbox [51/100]

To: Dr. Crane [eaglechristianchurch.com]

Subject: Faith and Hope

---Original Message---

Question: "What is the difference between faith and hope?"

Answer: Faith and hope are distinct yet related. We know there is a difference between faith and hope, in part, because of what Paul writes:

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Cor 13:13, ESV).

Paul lists faith and hope separately. But we also know that faith and hope are related concepts when we look to the writer of Hebrews

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb 11:1, ESV).

Faith and hope are related, but different. Faith is trust or confidence in something. It involves an intellectual assent to a set of facts, but also a willingness to trust and submit to those facts. Biblical faith is confidence in the integrity of God and therefore a willingness to submit to him as God. If we say we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, it means we have complete confidence in his substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, and exaltation, and show a willingness to surrender to him as Lord.

Biblical hope is not worldly hope. The worldly definition of hope usually goes something like this: a feeling that what is wanted will happen. But biblical hope is not wishful thinking, well-wishing, or even "hope against hope." Biblical hope is built on faith. Hope is the earnest anticipation that comes based on (or as a result of) our faith. Hope is the trustful expectation of good that is to come, based in the very character and nature of God, that he will do what he has promised. Stated another way, hope is the confident expectation of good to come based in the integrity of God.

Hope naturally stems from faith and builds from our faith. Hope is a peaceful assurance that something which hasn't happened—will indeed happen. Hope involves something that is not yet seen:

Email "Messages"

Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes in what he sees? (Rom 8:24, ESV).

Jesus' return is our "blessed hope."

Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

We can't see him yet, but we know he's coming, and we anticipate that event with joy. We know he is coming because Jesus said he is coming again,

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:3).

By faith, we trust Jesus' words, and that faith leads to our hope that we will one day be with him forever. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is the basis for our faith (1 Corinthians 15:20). Jesus' promise that we will live because he lives, is the basis for our hope.

The relationship between faith and hope can be illustrated in the joy a child feels when his faithful and trustworthy father tells him they are going to a Seattle Mariners' game. The child (based on his father's integrity) believes that he will see the ball game based on his father's word—that is faith. At the same time, the child's belief in his father's word, kindles an air of excitement and anticipation—that is hope. The child's warranted trust in his father's promise is the faith; the child's joy and expectant longing are the expressions of the hope.

Faith and hope are, therefore, complementary. Faith is grounded in the truthful reality of the past; hope is looking with faith in anticipation to the future. Without faith, there is no hope, and hope is a demonstration of faith. Christians are to be people of both faith and hope. For we have the "hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2, ESV).