

## Faith, Hope & Love

1Co 13:13 And now abideth **faith, hope, charity**, these three; but the **greatest** of these is **charity**.

And now abideth **Faith**

**Heb 11:1** Now **faith** is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

- substance- Gk.5287- a *setting under (support)*, that is, concretely **essence**, or abstractly **assurance: confidence**. Essence: Webster- the basic nature (of something). Faith, then, is the basic nature of things expected.
- evidence- Gk.1650- *proof, conviction*. Watches, computers, etc. and even houses (*whether on paper or in the mind*) begin from a design or blueprint. It's obvious that the creation has an **Intelligent Designer** because all physical things that are made are too complex to not have been deliberately designed by "**Something**" or "**Someone**". They couldn't have just happened out of chaotic nothingness. And if nothing ever existed, and things that are begotten are begotten of their own essence (*basic nature*) or seed, then nothing should still exist. But since something **does** exist then something (*or Someone*) has always existed. Thus the proof or conviction believers have in the eternal nature of **God, the Intelligent Designer and Creator** of all things.

Psa 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (*We can't see God but the design that went into the creation declares His existence.*)

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*"Biblical faith is attained only after an examination of the evidence, coupled with correct reasoning about the evidence."* Dave Miller, Ph.D., Apologetics Press, 2003

- Evidence: the physical creation. Correct reasoning: Cows beget cows, dogs beget dogs, mice-mice, trees-trees, so, everything came from "*something*" since "*nothing*" would beget "*nothing*", not pigs, cows, amoebas, molecules, atoms and etc. These did not come from nothing!

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **Thou hast created all things**, and for Thy pleasure (*Gk.2307- a determination, that is, choice [specifically purpose]*) they are and were created.

- We may not understand why **God** created certain things but we do know, according to this passage at least, that everything that was created has purpose. And the one main purpose since the beginning was to point man to his **Creator**. But aside from having faith in **God** through the creation, there is the faith, that comes from **His** word, that shows that **He is Who He says He is** and that **He sent His Son** as **He said He would**.

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

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**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Rom 1:17** For **therein** (*the gospel*) is the righteousness of God revealed **from faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall **live by** faith.

*"If we desire to be righteous (just) before God, we must do it by faith. This means faith is the starting point to becoming righteous and faith is the ending point."* Brad Price

- In other words, the assurance in the beginning of things expected to the new babe in **Christ**, in time becomes the mature personal conviction of spiritual reality which should last a **Christian's** lifetime. This assurance comes from the gospel, the good news of **Jesus'** coming, **His** death, **His** burial and resurrection and **His** ascension back to **God** to sit as **Mediator** to all who love **Him** by keeping **His** commandment to show that love to others. But in the meantime we live by faith, our entire lives are absorbed in the faith.

**Heb 5:12** For when **for the time ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **13** For every one that useth milk *is* **unskillful in the word of righteousness**: for he is **a babe**. **14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who **by reason of use** have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- A babe in **Christ** is not as skillful as someone who is (*supposed to be*) more mature in the faith. The newer convert understands what is necessary to become a **Christian** but those who are not constantly involved in the word are the ones who might not be able to *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them (*1 Pet 3:15*). Not everyone grows at the same pace, but everyone is still supposed to be growing. Daily if at all possible.

**Jud 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence (*shows necessity, importance*) to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should **earnestly contend for the faith** (*Gk.4102- the system of religious [gospel] truth itself*) which was **once delivered** (*once delivered for all time without any additions or editing*) unto the saints.

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And now abideth **Hope**

**Act 24:14** But this I confess unto thee, that after **the way\*** which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: **15** And have **hope** toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. **16** And herein do I exercise (*Gk.778-train*) myself, **to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.**

- the way\*- Coffman notes, "*Implicit in such a name is the trueness and rightness of it. There are many ways of sin, but only one way of eternal life.*"
- **Paul** trained his mind in anticipation of the resurrection of the just, thus keeping his conscience faultless, both toward **God** and his fellow man.

*Act 20:26* Wherefore I take you to record this day, that **I am pure from the blood of all men.**

*Rom 7:22* For I **delight in the law of God after the inward man:** *23* But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

*1Pe 1:3* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively (living) hope by (Gk.1223- because of) the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, *4* **To an inheritance** incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven** for you, *5* Who are kept (Gk.5432- protected) by the **power of God (Rom 1:16- the gospel)** through faith (here 'conviction') unto (for the purpose of) salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (at the day of judgment). (Without conviction we cannot obtain salvation!)

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*Rom 5:2* **By Whom (Jesus)** also we have access (Gk.4318- admission) **by faith (Gk.4102- conviction [of religious truth])** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice **in hope** of the **glory** of God. (Personal conviction is our ticket into God's unmerited favor and Jesus is the Ticketmaster.)

- hope- Gk.1680- (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation or confidence. If we cannot say, without question, we are sure of what the Bible says concerning life, death, the resurrection, Heaven, Hell and a host of other scriptural truths, we need to reexamine this concept of our own personal hope.
- glory- Webster: 6. The felicity (bliss) of heaven prepared for the children of God; celestial (divine) bliss.
- I have said it before and it bears repeating. I look forward to giving up my faith and hope! These two are temporal ("now abideth" -1 Cor 13:13) but love is eternal! Just as God has existed and will always exist, so has, and will, His love.

*Rom 8:24* For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? *25* But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Why would we hope to receive something we have already received?

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The greatest of these is **Charity (love)**

*1Jn 2:15* Love (Gk.25) not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love (Gk.26) of the Father is not in him. *16* For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- In this passage there are two different uses to the word "love". According to Thayer, the word "αγαπω" (Gk.25) means "to take pleasure in the thing, prize it above other things, be unwilling to abandon it or do without it". In the context here, there are those who will not give up their worldly lifestyles that they have grown accustomed to, with the lusts and pride that go with it. The other word for "love" is "αγαπη" (Gk.26) which

denotes “affection, good-will, love, benevolence”, in this case toward our fellow man. The first “love”, **in this context**, is for the world and thus satanic. The second is from above and thus of God.

1Jn 4:7 Beloved, let us love (*Gk.25- [Thayer: to love, to be full of good-will and exhibit the same]*) one another: for love (*Gk.26-[Thayer: especially of that love of Christians towards Christians which is enjoined and prompted by their religion, whether the love be viewed as in the soul or as expressed]*) is of (*Gk.1537- denoting origin*) God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

- Because the eternal God is the basic nature of love anyone who is **born of God** is the offspring of that basic nature. Those who do not love are not the offspring of God but are the offspring of Satan. And only the true believers understand what true love is\*. It is sacrificial! It sacrifices “self” for the good of others.

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them (*those Jews who at first believed in Him*), If God were your Father, ye would love (*Gk.25*) Me (*In this context Jesus is saying “If you were the offspring of God you would take pleasure in Me, prize Me above all other things, be unwilling to abandon Me or do without Me”*): for I proceeded forth and came from God (*Who is the “basic nature” of love*); neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me. 43 Why do ye not understand My speech? *even because ye cannot hear (Gk.191- to hear: give audience [Thayer: “to follow with attentive hearing”])* My word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil (*who is the opposite of love*), and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

*\*Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

- There is (*supposed to be*) within the church, as the body of Christ (*Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of His [the Father’s] glory, and the express Image [representation] of His person...*), that certain affection, good-will, love and benevolence that cannot be found in the world outside because it’s origin is not carnal but originates from God. And He has expressed His love for mankind through the giving of His Son at Calvary. It is this sacrificial type of love that “never faileth” (*1 Cor 13:8*).

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God (*the Father*), because He (*Christ*) laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels (*Gk.4698- inward affection*) of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed (*Gk.2041- by implication an act*) and in truth. 19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. 23 And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.

**Eph 3:14** For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (*God owns what He created!*), **16** That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory (*the bliss of Heaven*), to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; **17** That Christ may dwell in your hearts (*Gk.2588- mind*) by (*Gk.1223- through*) faith (*that basic nature of our convictions*); that ye, being rooted (*Gk.4492- become stable*) and grounded (*Gk.2311- lay a basis for*) in love (*As a farmer cultivates his soil for the increase, so Christians cultivate their "soil" with the seed of love. Fields that are planted in beans and corn produce beans and corn. Love produces love.*), **18** May be able to comprehend (*Gk.2638- perceive*) with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; **19** And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

- Only a parent can begin to perceive the love of God in giving His only begotten Son. But, as the saints of the Most High who have been strengthened in our minds through the cultivation of His word, we can begin to understand just how mighty His love is for us.

**Gen 1:11** And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit **after his kind, whose seed is in itself**, upon the earth: and it was so. **12** And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding **seed after his kind**, and the tree yielding fruit, **whose seed was in itself, after his kind**: and God saw that *it was* good.

The seed which we wish to plant for the harvest is the word of God, whose seed (*the truth*) is in itself and after its own kind. The truth never begets lies. Lies come from the devil. The harvest, when the tares will be separated from the wheat according to the Bible (*Mat 13:24-30*), is the end of time when Jesus will leave the right hand of the throne of God in Heaven to return and reclaim His bride, the church. So if you haven't been cultivated with the love of God through His word you might want to ready your soil because the plow is sharp for planting and we expect Him to return for the harvest at any time.

If you've heard the gospel message and believe it, have you repented of your sins and confessed that Jesus is Who He says He is? Have you been baptized for the remission of those sins to stand before God with a clear conscience and are you continuing to live your new life accordingly? If there is anything we can do to help you toward this goal...

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: "1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism **doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience toward God**.) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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