



Hope: The Anchor of Your Soul

Part 3

What is the difference between Faith and Hope?

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Sometimes two words can be so intertwined that it is difficult to distinguish between their meanings. Such is the case with faith and hope. Although aspects of the two overlap, the Bible does differentiate between the two. One of the most famous verses in the Bible lists faith and hope together with love. While most people think they understand love, they cannot clearly distinguish between faith and hope. Exploring the ways these two words are used in Scripture will shed light on both their uniqueness and similarity.

Differences between Faith and Hope

Hope is an assured promise, whereas faith is acting out that promise. Faith is hope put into action. Since “a picture is worth a thousand words,” picture in your mind a ship anchored in the water.

- **The Water** represents a *sea of people* floating through life.
- **The Ship** in the water represents you as a *believer safe* on board.
- **The Anchor** in the water represents the guaranteed *hope that Christ will hold you secure* to keep you from drifting dangerously off course.
- **The Rode** is the strong chain where one end is connected to the ship and the other to the anchor. The rode represents an action - *acting in faith that Christ will hold you secure*. The act of “anchoring” (dropping the anchor and chain into the water) is based on the guaranteed hope that the anchor will hold.”



Having hope that we can be secure is necessary in order to be held secure. Acting in *faith* is necessary so that our hope is not merely a mental concept, but rather a living hope - a guaranteed hope that becomes a reality when we *experience* an anchored life.

1. **Our hope** in Jesus is based on the promise of God. God the Father promised that God the Son would be the Savior of the world, thus our *hope* is Jesus **[Psalm 62:5-6]**. **By faith** we receive Jesus into our hearts and lives; therefore, faith is the means by which we actually receive our *hope*.
2. **Our hope** in Jesus *prompts* us to step out in faith, taking God at His Word **[Jeremiah 17:7; Lamentations 3:21-23]**. **Our faith** is motivated by our hope, and faith is the means by which we benefit from our *hope*.
3. **Our hope** for sustaining physical life resides in *believing* in the benefit of food (accepting the fact that eating food is necessary to stay alive). **[Psalm 37:25 & 55:22]** **Our faith** is exercised when we actually *eat food* for sustenance.

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4. **Our hope** for sustaining spiritual life resides in Jesus (accepting the fact that Jesus is necessary to have eternal life). **[1 Timothy 4:10]**
Our faith in His ability to give us eternal life is exercised as we *receive* Jesus into our lives.
5. **Our hope** for staying alive is our confident assurance in the merit of food; however, if we have no hope in the merit of food, we will not eat. **[Eccl. 9:7]**
By faith, we eat food to stay alive, but by not eating, we will *prematurely* die.
6. **Our hope** for eternal life is Jesus, but if we refuse to have hope in Him, we will die and spend eternity separated from Him. **[Jeremiah 29:11; Colossians 3:1-2]**
Placing our faith in Christ is the means by which we take *hold of our hope* in Him and receive all the benefits of having Christ, including living throughout eternity in heaven with Him.

Christ has set you on His course, first to save you and then to conform you into His character. Having the *assurance of hope* is necessary *before you can act in faith*. Then, you act in faith *because of your hope*. Ultimately, the Bible says that your hope is the catalyst that produces your faith.

“We have heard of your faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel.”

[Colossians 1:4-5]

Similarities between Faith and Hope

Hope and faith . . . are integral to salvation.

“In this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?” [Romans 8:24]

“It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” [Ephesians 2:8]

Hope and faith . . . are Christian virtues.

“Since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.” [1 Thessalonians 5:8]

Hope and faith . . . involves the unseen.

“In this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?” [Romans 8:24]

“We live by faith, not by sight.” [2 Corinthians 5:7]

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Hope and faith . . . require trust.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." [Romans 15:13]

"To the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." [Romans 4:5]

Hope and faith . . . please the Lord.

"The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love." [Psalm 147:11]

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." [Hebrews 11:6]

The anchor of hope and the rode of faith can be seen as one. In boating, the rode is so securely connected to the ship and to the anchor that it can be considered "one" with them. This is the case in the Christian's relationship with Jesus Christ, our hope, our anchor. We have become one with Him, so that our *faith* and our *hope* are entwined like a braided rope - separate yet working as one, tethering us to our Lord. The bible says,

"Your faith and hope are in God."

1 Peter 1:21



Question

How can you be sure that "Christian hope" is guaranteed and that God will fulfill His promises?

Answer

Christian hope can sound beyond belief . . . unreal . . . farfetched. For example, why would anyone believe in God's promise of the Christian's resurrection from the dead - a permanent, physical resurrection - especially since today we do not see people physically resurrected? Nevertheless, you can have absolute confidence in His hope because of His character. When your life is yielded to the Lord, He promises you a future filled with peace. He promises you will live forever in His presence - and He does not and cannot lie! The Bible gives this assurance: "It is impossible for God to lie." [Hebrews 6:18]