

Faith → Hope → Faith
Grace Community Church Bible Study

I. Focus Scripture: Hebrews 10:32-11:1

- a. Who is the letter addressed to?
- b. Why is the author speaking here about persecution?
- c. Why is he encouraging the recipients to “hold on”? 10:23 “let us hold fast the *confession of our hope* without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”
- d. What or Who is the object of faith and the source of HOPE?

II. What is Hope? [Hebrews 6:13-19] ἐλπίδος (el-pi-dos)- expectation of what is certain

- ★ Hope is an anchor for the soul
- ★ Hope is always based on a promise or revelation from God
- ★ Hope is based on something that I cannot readily see (Romans 8:24,25)
- ★ Hope calls for patience (Romans 5:4,5); Hope does not disappoint!
- ★ Hope is in you but not of you – prior to Christ, we were “without hope” (Ephesians 2:12; Galatians 4:8; Colossians 1:21)

III. What is Faith? [Hebrews 11:1] πίστις (pis-tis)- persuaded of what is trustworthy

- ★ Faith IS a gift of God- it is His persuasion of us resulting in our “belief” in Him
 - Faith (from God) and “Faith [belief]” (from man) are *slightly different*
- ★ Faith is **NOT** our manipulation of God
- ★ Faith IS a consequence of my hope in a promise (revelation) FROM GOD
- ★ Faith IS being convinced of what I haven’t seen YET
- ★ Faith **IS NOT BLIND**: God has not asked us to “believe” without evidence; persuasion comes with evidence!

IV. What is the Promise of God? [Genesis 22:18, Galatians 3:16]

- ★ **The promise:** The **WORLD** (Jews and Gentiles) would be “**blessed**” through the “Seed” of Abraham = Christ = the Hope of the World, the light, the Savior of ALL mankind.
- ★ **The Blessing: ETERNAL LIFE to ALL** that would believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God!

V. The Promise and the Purpose of God

His will/purpose is revealed to us via a promise → we are persuaded by Him (***Faith***) and have an expectation of Him (***Hope***) that His promise will occur no matter what we see.

VI. Connecting the Dots: Faith → Hope → Faith

I put my **FAITH** in God/Jesus Christ → That faith gives me **HOPE** for this life and the next life → My hope in God/Christ gives me **FAITH** to endure hardship and trials as I await God's promise!

★ See 1 John 5:4; Isaiah 28:6; Jeremiah 17:7; Psalm 34:8

An Example: Hebrews 11:3

1. World was made from the INVISIBLE Word
2. The World itself is VISIBLE
3. The INVISIBLE Word became visible in the person of Jesus Christ

Application:

God's invisible WORD is known to HIM before it is known to us. God speaks those things that are not as though they are. God will eventually make visible the invisible thus validating our faith and confirming our hope!

VII. Final Word: What we MUST Know About God

1. God will not withhold anything beneficial from us as long as we walk uprightly
2. We do not always understand His purposes
3. God is ultimately unfathomable
4. God cannot break a promise
5. God has no plans to "harm" us. "Thy will be done" is a ***lifestyle*** for the faithful