

Faith-filled and Hopeful



Faith-filled in their beliefs and hopeful for the future.

By passing on the living and faith-filled tradition of Jesus Christ; by having persevering faith in the pupils, and by encouraging them, in turn, to have faith and hope in others.

Faith and hope are vitally connected and it's important to understand the value they have together so we can have an unshakeable confidence in God.

Faith is the choice made to trust God with what is important to us. Through faith we become open to receive the love that is God. Our life becomes established in love.

Hope leads us to act purposefully in the present as we anticipate the work of Love in the future through drawing on the memory of love received in the past.

To be honest, both faith and hope have always been thought of as a bit of a mystery. By nature, they both seem a bit vague. You cannot touch them, hear them or see them yet you see the evidence of each: people saved, prayers answered and a joyful outlook of the future, to name a few.

There is a vital connection between faith and hope. One cannot live without the other. Having faith is crucial to human wellbeing – faith in myself, my emotions, my judgements; faith in others and their faith in me; faith my family and in the communities to which I belong; and faith in God. Faith cannot be taken for granted; it has to be built up day by day. Once we begin to have a little faith, we have hope, because we can trust ourselves and those around us with the decisions which will shape the future. Without hope we become insular, lacking in love, and ultimately despairing. *The three core virtues of the Gospel of Jesus are faith, hope and love.*

It says in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Faith and hope together are the human but God-given response to love. And faith and hope enable us to live within and to express the love in which we are created and held. Through faith and hope we open the way for love to bring us into the fullness of our individuality. Through faith and hope, love creates us, and in this love, through faith and hope, we become cocreators with God.

Love hopes in the other, has faith in the other's goodness. Faith is both the response to love and the means by which our capacity to receive love expands; faith flowers into hope. Hope flows from faith in God, enabling us to express love creatively, drawing what seems lifeless into being. But without love, faith and hope have no being. Everything rests on this: that God is love, and love has neither beginning nor end. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love

What is faith? What is hope?

1. Faith is given by God to know God.

Faith's object is God (His goodness and power). Faith grows through revelation of who He is by the Holy Spirit. It gains strength as we know God better.

2. Faith's anchor is assessing accurately WHO God is.

This is vital. When we understand God rightly then we can confidently say, "all things are possible with God." When we rightly understand who God is and continue to grow in this understanding then our faith increases. On the other hand, when we misunderstand who God is, faith wanes and hope is not even in view. This is huge!

3. Faith is active.

Faith lives and accesses God's Kingdom. Faith has movement. Faith is best defined by demonstration.

4. Faith is the substance of hope and hope awakens faith.

There is an interactive dynamic between faith and hope. Faith gives life to hope and hope strengthens our faith. You can't have one without the other.

5. Faith is coming into agreement with what God is saying and hope anticipates its reality.

Every promise, every prophetic word God has given carries with it life that can only be activated by faith. Faith comes into agreement and believes each promise, prophetic word and/or written Word.

6. The proof of our faith is hope.

When we have hope in God we prove that faith is active.

7. Without faith, hope is only a wish (powerless). But when we have hope in God, faith is powerful.

A wish is hope without God. It's something we long for but it's generally not connected to God. Biblical hope has as its foundation faith in God.

8. Unbelief honors what we see as impossible. Faith honors what we believe is possible.

Unbelief is simply faith in the inferior.

9. Hope looks to the future while faith lays hold of the present.

10. By faith we understand (Hebrews 11:3)

Most of us need to understand something first before we have faith but that's not what the Bible says. The Bible says that we have faith in order to understand. Faith is understanding.

II. Faith is not presumption.

The difference between faith and presumption is faith is our response to God's word of revelation, presumption is our expectation of God to do something He did not say.

Regardless of what we are going through we can put our faith in God and find hope. When we rightly discover God we will undoubtedly find faith and be filled with hope. When both of these are active, we will truly have an unshakable confidence in God to meet every situation we face.

Act of Faith

O my God,
I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
I believe that your divine Son became man
and died for our sins,
and that he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe these and all the truths
which the Holy Catholic Church teaches,
because in revealing them
you can neither deceive nor be deceived.
Amen



Act of Hope

O my God,
relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises,
I hope to obtain pardon of my sins,
the help of Your grace and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ,
my Lord and Redeemer.
Amen

