

Faith and hope, we need them both.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith, **Romans 12:3**. - - - (Faith, it's as easy as 1, 2, 3, **Romans 12:3**)

As scripture says, every man has a measure of faith. This is very important to know, for several people have told me that they have no faith, this is untrue and a lie. However, it is true to the extent that if you are in fear, you cannot be in faith. - - - (Every man has a measure of faith)

Faith is believing that something you expect to happen will come to pass. I like to think of it as every person has an engine that is meant to produce a positive faith result. However, if that engine is put into reverse it will act upon your fears and will produce the negative results that you believe may occur, but when the engine is used properly it will act upon the positive hopes that you have and produce great faith. Thus, if you can be in fear, you can be in faith. Just take the engine out of reverse and start using your faith engine properly. - - - (fear, is using your faith-engine in reverse).

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

One must have hope for faith to work, for without hope, faith has nothing to manifest. However scripture tells us that:

Hope deferred makes the heart sick: but *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life, **Proverbs 13:12**.

Hope does not have an expiration date. The scripture is telling us that until we get our hope active, if our hope is slow in coming our heart will become sick. However, scripture goes on to say that, "*when* that desire comes, *it is* a tree of life." The desire will come, for the scripture says when and not if the desire comes. When the desire comes it will ignite our hope and then our faith will be able to act upon our hope.

Now, desire is perhaps at the foundation of all of this. I see true desire as more than just a "wanting." I see true desire as, being willing to do whatever it takes. Too many of us limit our desires, perhaps not even being aware of it. Scripture tells us that If we have faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing shall be impossible to us, **Matthew 17:20**. Therefore, set your desires high, as long as they match up with the Word.

Hope is not an option, nor is it just for kids, it is a necessary biblical requirement. God is not asking us to do something that He does not do Himself, for we have a God of hope. This life after all can be pretty bleak if we don't have a future and a hope, **Jeremiah 29:11**.

The God of hope fill you with joy, peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, **Romans 15:13**.

Therefore, I end this teaching with these foundational scriptures, for they will direct your desires and your hope; Seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness, . . **Matthew 6:33**. And do not be conformed to the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **Romans 12:2**, embracing the mind of Christ, **1st Corinthians 2:16**. When you do these things, your desire will automatically correct itself and direct your hope and your hope will enable your faith to work.

