

# Faith and Hope

## Key verses

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..” Heb.11:1
- “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb.11:6
- “Behold the proud, his soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith.” Hab.2:14

## Is blind trust enough?

- “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Prov.14:12

Some people say that so long as you live a good life, no matter what you believe, God will see you right in the end. The problem with this philosophy is that it renders the Bible and its message of no value, and is in effect saying to God that he has wasted his time sending us the book of salvation in the first place. We are in effect making our own rules and **ignoring the requirements that God has set down**.

## Things we hope for

- “But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.” Rom.8:25

According to the first key verse above, true faith is based on “**the substance of things hoped for**” (Heb.11:1). So it stands to reason that if we hope for something that God has not promised us, then our faith will be in vain. It is up to us to search the Scriptures carefully to **find out what the promises of God are**, and then embrace them with all the enthusiasm we can muster, for God is, “a rewarder of those who diligently seek him” (Heb.11:6).

## Belief and obedience

- “Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.” Gal.3:6-7
- “But when they believed Phillip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptised.” Acts 8:12
- “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was asked to go out to the place he would afterward receive as an inheritance.” Heb.11:8

The examples of faith quoted above show the importance of unwavering **belief** in God's Promises followed by **obedience** to what he requires. True faith will always display both these essentials. It was even said of Jesus that “**he learned obedience by the things which he suffered**” (Heb.5:8-9). Both these essential ingredients were shown in the life of Abraham. So, in our own lives, it is essential that we have unwavering belief in the **Promises of God** and an enthusiasm to obey **His requirements**.

## Child like faith

- “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” 1 John 3:1

It is a natural progression in our faith in God to develop a special relationship with Him and his Son to the point that we as his children learn to rely on Him for all our needs (1John 3:1). Jesus said, “assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it” (Luke 18:17). He also said when speaking about our daily needs, “**seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you**” (Matt.6:33). Although “**the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge**” (Prov.1:7), we can in time grow closer to God in the same way a child bonds closer to a parent and in the words of John, “**there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear**” (1 John 4:18).

## Faith's super additions

We are told by the apostle Peter (2 Pet.1:5-9) that we must add to our faith **seven essential additions** which are the following:

- **virtue** (strength of mind, 1Cor.16:13)
- **knowledge** (solid spiritual food, Heb.5:12-14)
- **temperance** (self control, 1Cor.9:25)
- **patience** (perseverance, Rom.5:3-4)
- **godliness** (reverence, separateness, 'god likeness', 1 Tim.6:6)
- **brotherly kindness** (kind affection, Rom.12:10)
- **charity** ('agape', self sacrificing love, 1 Cor.ch13)

The Apostle Peter says, “he who lacks these things is short-sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.” (2 Pet.1:5-9).

## Sharing our faith with others

- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” 1 Pet.3:15
- “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude v3

It is our responsibility and our joy to share with others the glorious hope we have for the future. The test of a true saint is that they can give a **tangible description** of their faith based on **Jesus' return and the future Kingdom here on earth** rather than the falsehoods of Christendom, which in general give no solid details of the future because their hope is based on fables about the supposed immortality of the soul, which had its origins in ancient Babylon.

---

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.