

CouplesInBloom.com – How Hope Works

June 2012

Faith has detectable **substance** ⇒ Hebrews 11:1, but hope does not ⇒ Romans 8:24. On the contrary, hope requires that the hopeful have their own substance. If you thought faith was hard, hope is harder. **Hope is faith WITHOUT the convenience of substance.**

False hope is *easy* to get because it is based on lies (so it will fail). **True** hope is *hard* to get because it requires we submit our humanity to God's divinity. This dying to self is necessary to ensure God's authentic authorship, lest we end up with a fabricated emotion.

Both faith and hope involve **believing** that God is and does what He says; or to be more accurate: both involve us to **be living** like God is and does what He says. However, **hope is more useful than faith** because it pre-owns the substance of God's grace. Faith comes from getting God's Word ⇒ Romans 10:17, but where does true hope come from?

Romans 5:1-5 ⇒ explains where true hope comes from:

v.1 We are justified by **faith** in God.

v.2 **Faith** in God gives us access to God's **grace**.

v.3-4 God's **Grace** supernaturally works through our afflictions to produce **hope**.

v.5 **Hope** through the Holy Spirit is **how God answers us** and does not disappoint us.

In other words: true hope comes from experiencing pain **and** God's deliverance from it.

Romans 8:24 ⇒ says we are **saved by hope**; when Ephesians 2:8 ⇒ says we are saved by grace, we see how that fits the bigger explanation of salvation in Romans 5. Know that this Bible word **saved** has seven aspects: *saved, delivered, protected, healed, preserved, do well, and made whole*. **These** are God's answers if and when our hope abides in Him!

God's top three items **faith, hope, and love** ⇒ 1 Corinthians 13:13, in that order. Faith is good, hope is better, and love is best. Love is the fruit of **hope**; **hope** is the fruit of faith. They are all gifts from God; humanity can never fabricate them but it is God's heart and plan for us to use and enjoy them ⇒ Ephesians 2:8-10. Between faith and love is... **hope**.

Faith imparts hope in us, resulting in love for others. Nothing is greater. **Faith** works through **love** ⇒ Galatians 5:4-6, by using the hard but rewarding process of **hope**.

My testimony: *"I used to hate hope. I had faith and wanted answers, not hope. God loved me too much to reward such foolishness. He had to withhold His answers and allow me to become more desperate. My problem was wanting answers without wanting God's bigger answer... selfish on my part. Sometimes called hyper-faith, we can become spoiled brats... spiritually lazy, as all I wanted was **my own** wearisome problems solved.*

*This is God's whole point: life gets harder ⇒ 2 Timothy 3:13. Without the maturity of finding hope through affliction, I could not live victoriously myself, let alone help **others live victoriously**. Hope is the hard part yet is also **the very part that transitions us from being ministered to by God to ministering to others**. This is **How Hope Works**.*

How Hope Works is how God ministers to those in relationship with Him: *equipping us to live victoriously*, and *not merely answering prayer*. The same is true in our marriage relationship: **trials are to build hope!** As God's substance of **faith** gives **us hope**, so we **love** our spouse **in our trials**, giving **them** substance to *live victoriously*. ♥ Loren Falzone