

## Hope – Pt 1 the relationship between hope and faith

Today we begin a new topic on "hope". We establish that (1) faith is linked to hope, (2) hope includes patient waiting, and (3) faith and hope are in things that are unseen.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

### 1. Faith is intrinsically linked to hope.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen" (Heb.11: 1).

From our verse in Hebrews we know that faith and hope are intrinsically linked, such that there is a component of hope in faith, and faith in hope. When our faith increases so does our hope (2Cor.10: 15).

The Greek word "elpis" is translated – "faith" and "hope".

### 2. Hope includes patient waiting.

"But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Rom.8: 25).

From our verse we see that hope has an element of patient waiting for what we hope in, which is confirmed in 1 Thes.1: 3 – "Remembering without ceasing, your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ".

Patience and hope are linked – (Rom.5: 4, 8; 25, 15: 4, & 1 Thes.1: 30), as is waiting linked with patience (Rom.8: 25), and faith is also linked with patience (Heb.6: 12).

### 3. Faith and hope are in things unseen.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen" (Heb.11: 1), c.f. – Rom.8: 24 – "we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doeth he yet hope for?"

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

A Muslim martyr – has hope in eternity with 1000 virgins, because he has faith in his so called holy book – the Qur'an (Koran).

Question to think about.

How does our illustration serve as an example of the relationship between faith and hope?

Our answer from the scriptures.

\* "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom.10:17), and

\* "faith is the substance of things hoped for" (Heb.11: 1, and

\* "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom.15: 4).

Two points come from these scriptures –

i) Faith comes from hearing the word of God (not the unholy Qur'an), and

ii) Faith is the substance of what we hope for, and in our illustration the Muslim's hope is based on their unholy Qur'an (that has errors within its pages), not the holy scriptures. Therefore, we conclude that – there is a link between hope and faith – where faith is the substance of what we place our hope in, which determines whether or not our hope is vain – Jeremiah says – "Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills...truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel" (Jer.3: 23). Amen!