

Replacing The Hype With Hope

1 Corinthians 13:13 New Living Translation (NLT)

13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

This is a letter written by Paul to the church at Corinth. The church at Corinth found themselves buying into the hype of their day. They wanted to please the people and they began to compromise. Instead of impacting the people the people were infecting the church. Today many churches face the same problem. Many people attend church in order to feel good, a spiritual high so to speak. They attend church Sunday to get their feel-good fix for the week. Paul writes to remind them of the proper foundation and the basis for which Christ died in order that we might live. A Christian life is founded on these three things, faith, hope, and love.

Christians have been set apart from the world to be a reflection of Jesus the Christ. Unfortunately, Christians have been infected by the world. In the area of hope, it has been replaced with a wish mentality. Wishing depends on the circumstances and outcome. Hope on the other hand is a confident expectation that something good is going to result out of hardships and trials. It looked as if Jesus was killed but three days later He rose from the grave with ALL power! Hope makes certain that what I'm going through will work out for my good.

Faith, Hope, and Love

All three components are crucial in the life of a Christian. All three components work together and are necessary for Christian success. If you look at these three in a physical sense where love is the heart and faith is the muscle then hope would be the blood. Without all components functioning properly you have heart damage. Even if one component fails to function then the entire heart fails. Many Christians are hemorrhaging in their hope. Too many trials and not enough God has caused people to put hope in the wrong places. Life has beaten them down and caused them to look for other things besides the things of God to dull the pain. Christians

like those in the world are going through life sick. A life lived without hope causes the heart to die. Are you willing to pay the price to get to where you want to be? God wants us to be more than conquerors in life. The devil wants to use the trials that should strengthen us to beat us until we can not arise out of our situations. When God gives you a great commission the enemy rises up to stop you. When Jesus was born Herod gave an order to kill the male children. Herod was a willing participant in Satan's plan to try to kill the Messiah before He could fulfill His purpose. Satan will try to stop you too. Don't give the devil too much credit for your trials. God uses trials to draw greater good out of them.

Recipe For Hope

In Romans 5, verses 3-7; we find the recipe for hope. Hope is created when tribulation arises this is the first ingredient. Tribulation is when you come up against negative circumstances. When tribulation comes you need this second ingredient which is perseverance. Perseverance means you don't give up, cave in or quit. Then these two combined creates character. Character is who you are and what you do when no one is looking. You have a choice to make when tribulation comes. You must decide what you will add to tribulation. Will you follow God's recipe to get you in a position of hope? Will you decide to become a hopeless hoper? A hopeless hoper is someone who sabotages their belief that something good will happen through their own actions. These actions counteract hope. These actions are based on what feels good. Will you decide to become the captain of your own ship? This means you will have to sustain your life on your own and all the difficulties that come with it. You will be operating within your own means. Psalm 24 tells us, the earth is the Lord's and all its fullness. That means when you follow God's recipe for hope He will step in and intervene on your behalf. He will do what you can't do! God always provides the answers when we need it. The question that remains is will you follow the recipe to success? You decide if you will persevere or if you will quit. You decide if you will pass the test. Will you continue to do the wrong thing and expect to get different results? Are you insane? You've been doing the wrong answer for the last five years because you won't take the time to remember the right answer! Hope says no matter what I'm going through God will work it out for my good. **(See Romans 8:28)** Adapt yourself to the unknowns. God doesn't reveal everything all at once. Become acquainted with not knowing the who (God will use), the what (God will use), the when (God will

do it), the where (God will do it) and the how (God will do it). Just know that you know that He will do it!

Do It For The Boss

Many Christians do excellent in their jobs, in school, and in socializing but slack off when it comes to God. Give God your very best! Be effective in spreading hope. Add to someone else's life. Stop telling God why you can't. Seek Him for how you can! Stop asking Him why you are going through. Seek Him for the answers! God will give you more than you can bare because He doesn't want you to carry the weight on your own. Jesus says, come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden light. Be available to do the exchange. If you give Him your trials He promises you He will carry it for you and in exchange, He will give you the hope of rest for your mind, your will, and your emotions.