

We are a people of the Holy Spirit – Living in Hope – of the Kingdom of God – our hope is much higher than our economy.

Australia needs a great dose of hope; 5 men are lost to suicide every day (proportionately the highest rate in the world) – Church's responsibility to get our message of hope OUT – we are the hope-givers.

Hebrews 11:1 FAITH is the title deed (the essence, the confidence, the deep seated conviction that activates my life (thoughts/speech/behaviour) towards what I expect in my hopes.

Hope: thoughts/imaginings/spiritual ideas birthed by God – based on what He has said. Confident expectation that what God has said He will do, He will do.

Hopes: Joseph's dreams – stimulated

Abraham: 'look at the stars..' thoughts became a creative 'hope'

Romans 10:17 states that 'faith comes' by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. The Word ignites a faith response – once spoken becomes creative for hope.

3 levels of activity that show how my faith is in line with my hope (if it is not, then my faith is in vain because there is no basis)

1. Abstract/intangible; giving of mental assent to what God has said
2. Practical/tangible; giving practical expression beyond my hope – agreeing with the intangible
3. Wholehearted faith; (Numbers 14:24 Caleb)- this level believes that what God has said is worth giving your life for (Daniel – will not bow down even if we lose our life because hope is higher than any king's decree. In the lion's den – hope was maximised and faith God shut the mouths of lions through Daniel's faith)

2 types of hope:

1. Vain; based on my thoughts & imaginings
2. Substantial; based on God's Word and His unchanging character

God can and does supernaturally intervene in natural circumstances. Hope needs a foundation = activate my faith in hope = in God we trust

FAITH IS THE HAPPY ANTICIPATION OF GOOD IN THE PROMISE OF THE NEVERCHANGING GOD
(Vines Expository Dictionary)

- Titus 1:2 Our hope is in Jesus Christ
- Colossians 1:27 Christ in me, the hope of glory (see The Message version)
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Seal
- 2 Corinthians 5:5 Guarantee
- Ephesians 1:13-14

If we live our lives 'mentally' – this is vain hope; we have the promise and the seal; the guarantee of the Holy Spirit. Every time we speak in tongues we engage in the absolute proof of this seal (evidence of the deposit) – even though we speak mysteries to God!

HOPE IS A CHOICE: the exercise of faith or unbelief? Hope is the power of being cheerful in the circumstances we deem to be desperate.. Chesterton (part quote)

Psalm 42:5,11; 43:5 'why so downcast o my soul and why so disturbed within me; put your hope in God..' the evidence of faith.. I will still praise You...

Hope is a choice; faith is the activation of that choice.

I choose to be cheerful because Christ is **in me & over my** circumstances – He is our confident assurance.

Choose to see Christ in you – not the problem overwhelming you. He is the glory and lifter of our head. Hope means hoping when things are hopeless or it is no hope at all.

Can't allow our natural eye to rob us of our faith. Luke 8:22 Who is in the boat? How do I respond to life's storms?

Christianity is an optimistic religion that faces life full on; cannot be pessimistic and Christian (oxymoron) – the posture of Christianity is hands and faces lifted up – cheerful; choosing to look for the good in the band; seeing Christ in the storm. Illustration: pony-finders.

James 1:2-7 Christians/optimists see the purposes (not the problem) – level of maturity? How long in the tough times without losing faith. Job; even if you kill me, I'll praise You.

Illustration of Cape of Storms/Cape of Good Hope; call it a storm but through it is the treasure – hope basis makes all the difference.

ACTIVATE MY FAITH IN LINE WITH MY HOPE (There is nothing but good only from the heart of God).