

# Christian Walk: Faith, Hope, Love

These are mentioned together in many New Testament passages. (1Co.13:13; Ga.5:5-6; Cl.1:4-4; 1Th.1:2-3; 5:8). These 3 together are application pillars or spiritual virtues. Every Believer has the privilege of incorporating these into the fabric of his life. "I want to trust God in this present circumstance, eagerly expecting him to do what he will do, no matter about circumstances all the while expressing God's love to others." Faith is the foundation; Hope is built upon faith; and Love is the visible structure (1Th.1:3).

## FAITH

- Faith is dependent upon information (Ro.10:17)
- To believe or faith is an inner conviction that something is true.
- Faith must always have an object.
- The value of faith is in the object of the faith. It is not in the quality nor quantity of faith do we find its value.
- For the Christian the object of faith is God and His Word.
- When we rely on God's Word we are living by faith in that circumstance.
- One's faith can grow stronger through testing and practice (Ro.4:4-5; 1Pe.1:8; Jn.20:29; He.11:1-3)
- One's faith can grow stronger so that one believes God more often and in harder circumstances.

**- Faith Emphasizes Certainty**

## HOPE

- Hope is waiting for God's promised event(s) to happen.
- Confident expectation that something God has promised to happen will happen (Ro.4:18).
- Hope is expectation based on what we know to be true. It is not what we wish for or simply want to happen.
- We have hope because we are Believers.
- Hope helps us live now:

Hope for Christ to return which is good (Ti.2:13)

Hope to have Christ's righteousness (Ga.5:5)

Hope for greater Christian service when one's faith grows (1Co.10:15)

Hope to see Christ motivates Christian living (1Jn.3:3)

Hope makes us a living witness to speak about Christ (1Pe.3:15)

Hope energizes us to live in time and for eternity (1Pe.1:3)

**- Hope Emphasizes Expectation**

## LOVE

### Divine Love

- God's love is poured into the Believer, which he demonstrates to others.
- Divine love is God's love through us by the Holy Spirit and so has its source in God and expresses God's character.
- Love is first an attitude that seeks God's good for another person.
- The value and strength of love comes from the one loving, and is not dependent upon the one loved.
- Divine love does not require attraction (Mt.5:43-44; Lk.6:27,35; 1Jn.3:23)
- Divine love is unconditional (Jn.13:34-35; 1Jn.4:7; Ro.13:8,10; 1Co.16:14)
- Divine love expresses itself:
  - » Love expresses patience (1Co.13:4-7) - soul steadiness instead of reacting under pressure
  - » Love is kind - grace motivated help
  - » Love is not jealous - do not become upset at someone because they have something you want
  - » Love does not brag - does not build up self by what you say
  - » Love is not arrogant - the swelled head mental attitude about self
  - » Love does not act unbecomingly - act with bad manners or embarrasses another
  - » Love does not seek its own - self-centered and occupied with self
  - » Love is not easily provoked - it is not easily irritated and set off
  - » Love does not take into account a wrong suffered - does not readily accept as true something bad about another
  - » Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness - not happy when evil or human viewpoints triumphs
  - » Love rejoices with truth - is happy when truth and divine viewpoint triumphs
  - » Love bears all things - it covers over sins and failures of others
  - » Love believes all things - believes the best, not the worst, because God's grace goes to all believers
  - » Love hopes all things - Biblically optimistic because God has a plan
  - » Love endures all things - does not quit under pressure because God is just and compassionate
  - » Service and aid (Ga.5:13; 1Jn.3:17-18)

- Divine Love: Love is an attitude that seeks God's good for another person, which is not dependent upon the character of the one loved. This love expresses God's character through us by the Holy Spirit.

**- Divine Love Emphasizes God's Character**

### Friendship Love (Object Orientated)

- It is the attraction, compatibility that develops because of characteristics possessed by the object
- You know the object and want to do things with them (Lk.15:6,9,29; 11:11,36; 16:27; 20:2; Ac.10:24; 19:31; 27:3)
- You agree with the values and interests of the object (Mt.15:19; Lk.7:34; Jn.5:20; 15:19)
- Friendship love is not commanded
- We do not usually marry someone based on Divine love, but on friendship love.
- There is a pseudo-friendship that results from selfishness. This is temporary rapport fro personal benefit, but this is not friendship love (Lk.23:12; Jn.19:12)
- Develops because of personal characteristics possessed by the object
- It depends upon divine love as the base, but is dependent upon the object.

**- Friendship Love Emphasizes the Object Loved**

