

GETTING YOUR HOPES UP

Has anyone ever said to you: “DON’T GET YOUR HOPES UP.” In making that statement the person probably meant for you not to get excited about something good happening to you so you wouldn’t be disappointed when it didn’t happen.

The more we understand how our adversary works, the more we will realize that a negative statement such as that is another ploy of Satan’s to try and hinder our faith from producing what God wants it to produce in our lives. So the question is raised: DO I NEED TO GET MY HOPES UP? We as believers need to understand the relationship that hope has with our faith. Let us endeavor to help you understand this relationship better so that your life as a believer will be more productive for God.

First of all, let’s look at the most popular scripture on faith in the Bible – Hebrews 11:1

*“Now faith is the substance of THINGS HOPE D FOR,
the evidence of things not seen.*

Did you notice that HOPE must be in place first before faith will produce the desired result? IF THERE IS NO HOPE, FAITH DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO. I believe the devil has blinded us to the understanding of hope so that we will not learn how to get our hopes up. He wants to keep us hopeless so that our faith will not produce and be developed in our lives. Satan knows when we get our hopes up that he has lost out again.

To obtain a better understanding of hope we need to find out what hope is. Many times in order to find out what something is, it helps to know what it isn’t. Please, understand that HOPE IS NOT WISHING! Many times a preacher may inquire of someone requesting prayer for healing, “Do you believe you will be healed?” Then comes that all too dreaded response, “I sure hope so.” And you can tell by the way they said it that they are *wishing so*. I suppose you could call that *natural* or *worldly* hope. That kind of hope will never bring God’s promise into manifestation in your life. Godly hope is stronger than just wishing. Romans 4:18 tells us that Abraham had to get past natural hope and get into Godly hope:

“Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be.”

Let me give you an example that may help you understand hope. Suppose you have a friend or relative that you know very well. This person is not just an acquaintance but someone you trust and have confidence in. Imagine that person telling you they are going to do something for you that's very special, perhaps taking you somewhere you have always wanted to go or buy you something you have always wanted; or perhaps, just coming to visit and fellowship with you because you have not seen each other in a long time.

What would begin to happen? One thing is for sure, you would not start wishing it would happen. Why, because your relationship with that person is based on trust and confidence. You believe in what they said and are fully persuaded they will keep their word and you begin to look forward, with great anticipation, to their arrival. The more you think about what they promised, the more anticipation builds. Hope is like that anticipation. **GODLY HOPE IS INTENSE, EARNEST EXPECTATION.** That is why it is so important to know your Heavenly Father, to trust Him and earnestly expect promises to come to pass.

It is our prayer that your hope will start to rise and that God will show Himself strong to you. May you continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jerry