

The Relationship Between Hope and Faith

Some have thought and even said that hope is inferior faith. I disagree. Hope is very important to faith. A hopeless heart fosters a faithless heart. Hope gives strength to believe.

Hebrews 11:1 states, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..."; indicating that hope is a passage toward faith.

The word for hope in the NT is *elpis*, which means to anticipate with cheer, to be joyful, confident, to be in expectation. The word for faith is *pistis*. It is interesting to note that the last three letters of *elpis* (hope) are the first three letters of *pistis* (faith). I do not think that is a coincidence; rather, proof of a connection.

I read years ago that a man can endure most anything as long as he has hope, for then he is not walking in the darkness but in the dawn!

The Psalmist said, "...hope thou in God..."

Paul said the helmet is "...the hope of salvation."

To the Hebrews, it is written, "Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast..."

Peter said, "...that your faith and hope might be in God."

RWT