

WE HAVE COME THIS FAR BY

FAITH

PART FIVE

Hope in Three Dimensions

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Romans 15:13 *I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The Biblical Greek definition of hope:
“An expectation.” (noun); “To anticipate” (verb).

Dictionary definition:

1) a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen, 2) grounds for believing that something good may happen

I want suggest that there are three dimensions, or aspects, of hope:

- 1) Expectation,
- 2) Desire,
- 3) Purpose.

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EXPECTATION

Hope in the first dimension looks like
our response to circumstances

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DESIRE

Hope in the second dimension looks like the things we want, or what we desire to happen.

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Desire, the second dimension of hope is made healthy and active by faith in the grace of God.

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Romans 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

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PURPOSE

Hope in the third dimension looks like a
mighty force for change because we
operate in purpose

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Colossians 1:27, *“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

J.B. Philips transition, *“Christ in you, the hope of all glorious things to come.”*

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Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

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Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; 18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, “So shall your descendants be.”

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Romans 4:19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. 20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

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Three key insights pertaining to the third aspect of hope that God helped Abraham to achieve his purpose:

Key Insight #1: Hope and faith comes from the direct presence of God

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Key Insight #2: Hope permanently bends your expectation and anticipation away from the problems and towards the solution

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Key Insight #3: Hope produces a faith that will cause you to stand and not waiver at God's promise

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H.O.P.E.

Having Only Positive Expectations