

OUR FAITH AND OUR HOPE

INTRODUCTION

There is a pertinent need for Believers in Christ to unequivocally know and be able to define unambiguously what their faith and hope in Christ is. That seems not to be the case with many Believers of today, who sound discordant tunes as to what truly it is. They have conflicting explanations and understanding of what it is.

Unfortunately, as a result of this, many believers have varied beliefs and reasons for living in this world and being in Christ Jesus. Truly identifying what your faith and hope is in Christ gives and keeps you in true perspective of what your divine destiny is here on earth and beyond. So that your overall expectations and desires would be aligned accordingly and not be at variance to it as is generally the case.

If your belief in God the Father is through belief in His Son Christ Jesus, then the understanding of your faith and hope would be different from those that say they believe in God but not through Jesus Christ as their Lord, Master and God. Yet, unfortunately many that erroneously believe that the whole Bible is the word of God do not hold tenaciously to the words of Christ as the truth upon which the Bible should be viewed and understood; therein lieth the divergence. Christ is the Word of God made flesh that dwelt amongst us giving us understanding of He that is true, that is the Father. **Jn 1:7,14; Jn 3:31-34; I Jn 5:20**

I Pet 1: 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **Vr.20** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, **Vr.21** Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Jn 14: 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. **Vr.6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

If the word of Christ and the Spirit of Christ is not dwelling in you richly then your understanding of your faith and hope in Christ would always be erroneous as it were. By this lack of the word and Spirit, many that claim to be New Testament believers are still operating more in the Old Testament and worldly than they know it. **2 Cor 3:4-6,13-18**

Our hope is as a result of our faith. So without the coming of this faith that is of Christ Jesus there would have been no hope to expect. Faith precedes hope as it were. Faith is the seed

sown, while hope realized is the fruit harvested at the end of the day. **I Thess 4:13-18; I Pet 1:3-5; Rom 5:2; Jam 5:7-8; Jn 12:24**

OUR FAITH IS ROOTED IN THE GLORIFIED CHRIST

The faith that we are talking about is the faith that came by Christ Jesus through the gospel, but before this faith came there was a faith that was obtainable under the Scriptures of the Law and the Prophets of old, which had not the Son of God explicitly as the main revealed focus. Then men believed in God, but knew not nor believed in the Son as it were. **Mtt 23:23; Rom 4:3**

Gal 3: 22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. **Vr.23** But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. **Vr.24** Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. **Vr.25** But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. **Vr.26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

The faith we preach and teach comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God, which is Christ Jesus. Christ is the Word made flesh and who dwelt amongst us. Therefore, faith comes by hearing Christ and believing him in all things as it were. **Rom 10:17; Mtt 4:4; Jn 1:1-2,14; Jn 2:5**

Mtt 17:1-5 (Vr. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

Acts 3:20-26 (Vr.21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. **Vr.22** For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Our faith as Christians is predicated on the New Testament that is in the blood of Jesus. The new covenant that we have with God through the promise of the Father that came by Christ Jesus. This is the foundation upon which our Christianity is based, that whosoever truly believes in the glorified Christ he gives him of his Spirit and power to become sons of God. **Jn 1:10-13**

Hebr 12: 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Lk 10: 22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

Our faith is based on our belief in God the Father that He raised up His Son, Jesus Christ from the dead on the 3rd day after his crucifixion on the cross. And that he was glorified to be seated at the right hand of God in heaven, in whose name we preach repentance and forgiveness of sins for salvation sake. **Hebr 5:5-10**

I Cor 15: 1-8 (Vr.3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **Vr.4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Gal 1: 1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) **Vr.4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

So our faith is anchored on the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord by God the Father after three days. And his being glorified to His right hand above all the heavens as it were. If this had not been fulfilled or happened, then our faith would not have been. **Mtt 27:62-66; Hebr 1:1-3; Acts 4:7-12**

Lk 24:44-51 (Vr.46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Vr.47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

I Cor 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. **Vr.15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **Vr.17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. **Vr.20** But now [*our faith*] is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Jn 11: 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:

Rom 6: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more [*our faith*]; death hath no more dominion over him. **Vr.10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Acts 17:30-32 (Vr.31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men [*that believe*], in that he hath raised him from the dead [*as their faith*].

Rom 10:8-9 (Vr. 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **Vr.9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Our faith is as a result of the coming to pass of the promise of God for the salvation of mankind through His Son Jesus Christ ordained even from the foundation of the world. Without the fulfillment of this promise this faith would not have been available for redemption purposes.

Rev 13:8; I Pet 1:18-21

OUR HOPE IS PREDICATED ON OUR FAITH

As we have opined, our faith is based on our belief in God the Father, that He raised up His Son, Jesus Christ from the dead on the 3rd day after his crucifixion on the tree. And exalted him to be seated at His right hand in the heavens, in whose name we preach repentance and remission of sins.

Therefore, on the premise of this faith, our hope is based on our belief in God the Father through his glorified Son Jesus Christ, to also raise us which believe in the Son, up from the dead unto life eternal via the first Resurrection event that shall occur on the last day. Every other thing concerning our hope is predicated on this truth. **2 Cor 13:4-5**

2 Cor 4: 10-14 (Vr.10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. **Vr.13** We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; **Vr.14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you [*this is our faith and hope*].

Jn 5: 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. **Vr.24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. **Vr.26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **Vr.28** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **Vr.29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Jn 11:20-26 (Vr.23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. **Vr.24** Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. **Vr.25** Jesus said unto her,

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: **Vr.26** And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

I Cor 6:12-14 (Vr.14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power [*our faith and hope*].

Rom 6: 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **Vr.8** Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him [*our hope*]: **Vr.9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more [*our faith*]; death hath no more dominion over him. **Vr.10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

I Thess 4:13-18 (Vr.13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **Vr.14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **Vr.18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Rom 8: 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. **Vr.11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. **Vr.23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Everyone that comes to the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus by faith must be given and receive this hope in him by the Holy Ghost as it were. By this hope you are comforted, consoled, and are able to patiently endure all things in this wicked and unjust world, waiting in anticipation for the appearing of our Lord and Saviour at the end.

2 Thess 2: 16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, **Vr.17** Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

I Pet 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope [*How?*] by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [*which is our faith*],

Without the coming to pass of our faith we would not have had this hope. Therefore, our faith is the substance and evidence of our hope in Christ. If Christ had not risen from the dead, we in Christ cannot hope of rising from the dead unto life at the end too. **I Cor 15:13-23; Rom 8:24-25**

Herein lieth the true meaning of the following biblical verse which has been so erroneously misinterpreted in understanding by many:

Hebr 11: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen [*hope is not seen*].

WE ARE SAVED BY HOPE

Unfortunately, many people that claim to have come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are yet ignorant of the truth concerning what being saved by hope meaneth. Why? because their understanding of their salvation is premised mainly on their life in this present world and also hinge their hope in Christ Jesus therein.

By reason of this error in belief and hope from the beginning such believers are still fearful of dying. They are made to believe that by reason of their coming to Christ in salvation that they can hope for long life and prosperity in this world and realize it therein. They hope and therefore pray to partake of the best that this world has to offer now, in terms of worldly riches, pleasures, possessions, ambitions, power, fame and the likes; the very same things that the unbelievers seek and live for to attain. That is why they cling tenaciously and continually claim the promises of God in the Old Testament as their redemptive rights and blessings in Christ Jesus as it were. Unfortunately, this is not what Christ saved you to hope for and be anticipating as it were. **Lk 23:39-43; Lk 16:15; Lk 12:15; Mtt 6:19-21; I Jn 2:15-17**

I Cor 15: 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Jn 12: 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. **Vr.25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Mk 8: 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. **Vr.36** For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Our eternal salvation is based on the hope of our being resurrected from the dead unto eternal life at the appearing of Christ Jesus from the last day. That is why Christ is the resurrection and the life to those that have this lively hope in them. Christ in you the hope of glory, not in this world but in the world to come. Our hope is focused on immortality and life that we shall partake of and inherit in Christ Jesus on the last day. This we preach and teach in the gospel of Christ to the whole world as we anticipate its fulfillment in our lives on that day. **Rom 5:2; Colo 1:27**

2 Tim 1:8-14 (Vr.8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; **Vr.9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, **Vr.10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Rom 2:6-7 (Vr.7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

You are not saved by Christ based on the hope of having a trouble free life devoid of suffering in this present world [*as many interpret the hope of being in Christ to mean*] but rather in the world to come. All those that are Christ's in this world shall he raise up from the dead to be with him forever and to reign in the world to come, that is the hope of our salvation as it were.

Rev 7:13-17; Rev 21:1-7

Rom 8:18-30 (Vr.18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **Vr.22** For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **Vr.23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. **Vr.24** For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? **Vr.25** But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

I Pet 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Lk 20:34-36 (Vr.35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead [*are those that are saved by hope in this world*], neither marry, nor are given in marriage: **Vr.36** Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

I Thess 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. **Vr.9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, **Vr.10** Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

All those that have this hope in them are ever expectant and looking forward to the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven to take us out of this world and thereby escape the wrath of God that is to come upon the earth. This shall be on the last day after the events of

the Great Tribulation of the saints in this world and not before as it were. So we endure tribulations and afflictions presently in this world having this hope alive in us. It is those that overcometh that shall inherit all things, not those that seek to escape tribulation through a feigned “rapture”. **Mtt 24:29-31; I Pet 1:7-8; Rom 5:1-11; Rom 8:18-23; Rev 2:11; Rev 21:7; Jn 17:15-16**

I Thess 1:9-10 (Vr.10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

2 Tim 4:5-8 (Vr.7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: **Vr.8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all [*having this hope in*] them also that love his appearing.

Tit 2:11-15 (Vr.11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Vr.12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Vr.13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; **Vr.14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Those that do not truly have this hope in them shall always love this world and pray that it should not come to an end. They shall be afraid, worried and troubled at heart with those things that are coming upon the earth. Ignorantly, they shall be given to praying against the coming to pass of the testimonies of Jesus concerning the coming of the antichrist and his agenda in the world in these last days. And with another side of the mouth, they would be saying that their “Rapture” can happen at any moment during these events. A great disappointment awaits many at that time when their hope of sudden teleporting to be with Christ in the air in order to escape the Great tribulation does not happen. **I Thess 5:1-9; 2 Thess 2:1-4; I Thess 4:13-18; Mtt 24:29-31**

Presently, we receive the promises of Christ for us by faith and live in hope of its true actualization at the end as it were. We are required to keep faith and hope till the very end. Christ is our hope and he is unseen to us presently. So we get eternally saved at the end when we shall see Christ our hope. Then shall this hope be realized and the promises fulfilled. Without the appearing of Christ and our seeing him, our eternal salvation cannot be possible. From thence, it shall no longer be a hope, but a heavenly reality as it were. **Mtt 10:16-23; Mtt 24:3-14; Acts 15:11; Rev 22:12**

Jn 20:28-30 (Vr.29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. **Vr.31** But these are

written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

I Pet 1: 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **Vr.7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **Vr.8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory [*for he is our hope*]:

1 Jn 3:1-3 (Vr.2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **Vr.3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

WHAT IS THE HOPE OF OUR CALLING IN CHRIST JESUS?

Unfortunately, many of the Church as business organization (CAO) adherents that claim to be believers in Christ are bereft of the understanding of the true nature of the hope of our high calling in Christ Jesus. This ought to be the knowledge given to all those that come to believe truly in the saving knowledge of Christ by faith from the start. So that having this hope, you can be delivered from the captivity of the fear of death by which many are still held bound today, and also be able to endure your own share of afflictions for righteousness sake in this world.

Hebr 2:14-15; 2 Tim 3:12; Jn 16:33

Jn 6: 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day [*that is our hope*].

Eph 1:16-21 (Vr.17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: **Vr.18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Our hope is in God who shall raise us up from the dead through Christ Jesus our Lord. This hope is set before us from the beginning of our conversion even as it was for Christ during his time upon the earth. **2 Cor 1:9; Lk 20:37-38**

Hebr 6:18-20 (Vr.18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: **Vr.19** Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Hebr 12:1-3 (Vr.1 and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **Vr.2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy [*in the hope*] that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The prize of our high calling in Christ is our partaking of the resurrection from the dead unto life eternal. That is what we are promised in Christ and that is what we earnestly look forward to partaking in order to enter into our inheritance and glory from the last day. So we endure the loss of all things, suffering, pain and affliction in the gospel in order to attain unto this at the end, therewith is our perfection made complete. This hope is sustained in us by grace through faith. **2 Thess 2:16; I Pet 1:2-5; Hebr 7:19; 1 Cor 2:9-10**

Phil 3: 7-14 (Vr.10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; **Vr.11** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **Vr.14** I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

THE ASSURANCE OF THIS FAITH AND HOPE IN US

Many believers that claim to have this faith and hope that is of Christ in them unfortunately do not have the divine assurance that sustains such in them even to the end. Therefore, they fall on the way side by reason of the cares, pleasures, afflictions and pressures of this world having not this consolation in them. **Mtt 13:18-22; Hebr 6:9-12; Hebr 10:19-25; Lk 9:57-62**

God gives those that are truly His, assurance concerning the faith and hope they have in Him. All those that are given this faith and hope by God must also compulsorily receive the understanding of the truth with full assurance thereby. How? By receiving the Spirit of truth, the Holy Ghost in baptism through Christ our Lord and being led by him. The guarantee of this hope we have in Christ Jesus is the Spirit of the resurrected Christ with which all those that truly believe and obey him are sealed with. And by that Spirit ye shall be raised also from the dead on that day. Without which your faith and hope is without guarantee and assurance. **Acts 15:8; Acts 17:31; Rom 8:9-11; Colo 2:2; 2 Tim 1:12-14; I Thess 4:8; Acts 1:4-5**

Eph 4: 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Acts 5:29-32 (Vr.30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. **Vr.31** Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give

repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **Vr.32** And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Jn 14:15-18 (Vr.16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **Vr.17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Jn 7:37-39 (Vr.38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **Vr.39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

I Jn 4: 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

I Thess 1: 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;

2 Thess 2: 13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **Vr.14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those that are partakers of the Holy Ghost encounter the Lord continually in word and deed, and also experience the taste of the powers to come in signs, wonders and miracles. The Spirit of Christ in you is a seal, a deposit cum guarantee from God of the certainty of the hope you have in Christ coming to pass. The Spirit in you also helps your infirmities and enables you to overcome and conquer all the obstacles the world shall throw at you, enabling you to endure patiently against all odds till the end. **Eph 1:13; I Jn 4:4**

Hebr 6:4-6 (Vr.4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **Vr.5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Rom 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. **Vr.15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. **Vr.16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **Vr.26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

2 Cor 1: 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; **Vr.22** Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF OUR HAVING THIS HOPE IN THIS WORLD

All those that in truth have this hope are no longer of the world even though they are still in the world as flesh and blood (humans), but have not become spiritual beings yet. Such presently become spiritually and heavenly minded no longer carnally and earthly minded. The world shall hate them even as they hated our Master Jesus Christ. They shall rise up in opposition against them from all fronts because such are no longer of the world. **Jn 15:18-21; Jn 17:14-18**

All those that truly have this hope must take up their cross daily, being ever mindful and ready to forsake all in this world in order to follow Christ unto death. They must be ready to experience the loss of all things for Christ's sake and to leave this world naked as they came. Such shall live by faith in righteousness, striving by grace in the knowledge of Christ to escape the corruption that is in the world due to lust. Tribulation, anguish, afflictions, sufferings and death awaits all those that are called to this hope in Christ Jesus in this present evil world. **I Tim 6:3-12; 2 Pet 1:2-4; Mk 8:34-38; Rom 8:35-39; I Cor 4:9-14**

Tit 2: 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Vr.12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Vr.13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

2 Cor 4: 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels [*presently*], that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Jn 16: 33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

2 Tim 3: 10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **Vr.11** Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. **Vr.12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Acts 14: 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, **Vr.22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Presently, as saints of God on earth we operate all that our Master declared concerning us under the New Testament promises by faith in hope, being yet in this vile body. This is of “the image” operation not yet of “the true”. Thanks to get and read our literature titled “The Shadow and The Image and The True” for some more insights in this area. **Hebr 10:1**

We endure all things set against us in this unrighteousness world of evil, while waiting patiently and expectantly for the reality of our hope from the resurrection day. **Mtt 5:38-48; Rom 8:18-25; I Jn 5:19; I Pet 3:13-18**

Hebr 10:32-39 (Vr.32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; **Vr.33** Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. **Vr.34** For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance [*our hope*]. **Vr.35** Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. **Vr.36** For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. **Vr.37** For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. **Vr.38** Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. **Vr.39** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

2 Cor 4: 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; **Vr.9** Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; **Vr.10** Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. **Vr.11** For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. **Vr.14** Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. **Vr.16** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. **Vr.17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **Vr.18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal [*our hope is on things which are not seen*].

Jam 5:7-11 (Vr.7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. **Vr.8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. **Vr.10** Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. **Vr.11** Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

Rom 8: 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **Vr.17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. **Vr.18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

THE REALISATION OF OUR HOPE

Our hope is focused on our partaking of immortality and life in Christ Jesus from the last day. No longer to be in this human body again, but to take on the celestial body from thenceforth as it was in the beginning. Our image operation of the promises we have in Christ by faith presently shall cease and the true operation cum realization of the promises shall commence. This shall be as we partake of the first resurrection cum “caught up” experience on the last day, which the CAO erroneous call “the Rapture” event that majority of them teach in error shall happen before the Great Tribulation era.

I Cor 15:48-55 (Vr.49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. **Vr.50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **Vr.51** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **Vr.52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **Vr.53** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. **Vr.54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

On the resurrection day, we shall put off this earthly tabernacle and put on the heavenly one, heralding the beginning of the realization of our glorious hope in Christ Jesus. For which cause, we forsook all and suffered the loss of all things on earth in order to follow Christ by faith, not loving our lives in this world unto death. **Lk 14:25-33; Rev 12:11; Jn 12:24-26; 2 Pet 1:12-15**

Phil 3: 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **Vr.21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

2 Cor 5:1-17 (Vr.1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **Vr.2** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: **Vr.3** If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **Vr.4** For we that are in this tabernacle do

groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. **Vr.6** Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: **Vr.7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **Vr.8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Mtt 19: 27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore [*what is our hope*]? **Vr.28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **Vr.29** And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

We shall become the true children/sons of God, the real new creature having eternal life in our immortal bodies, and then shall we be truly seated with Christ in the heavenly places, becoming kings and priests unto God, etc. All these shall become true or real only when we partake of the resurrection unto life from the last day. **Jn 5:28-29; Lk 14:14; Rev 1:5-7**

But the CAO teach otherwise in their prosperity gospel, promising a worldly realization of this hope we have in Christ while we are yet flesh and blood. So they mind earthly things, loving the things of this world and aspiring to partake of them all even as the unbelievers do. They claim to have already begun to reign and dominate presently as kings and priests being overtly covetous. Hope that is seen is no longer hope. So our hope in Christ is not realized in this world, but in the world to come. **Rom 8:24-25**

This is an error that the CAO are exercised in, which is not the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ that we preach and teach in truth. We shall realize the hope of our salvation from the last day, when we shall enter into everlasting life having been clothed with our glorious bodies as it were.

I Pet 1:3-13 (Vr.3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **Vr.4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **Vr.7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **Vr.8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **Vr.9** Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls [*which had been a hope all this*

while]. **Vr.13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

We are born again in this world unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, while we enter into the realization of this hope at the end, in the world to come, at the revelation cum second appearing of Jesus Christ. It is by our partaking of the realization of this hope that we shall enter the kingdom of heaven being no longer flesh and blood. **I Cor 15:50; Jn 3:5; Mtt 18:3**

Christ is our ultimate hope, though we have not seen him in the flesh, yet we love and believe in him. We shall not as flesh and blood (humans) see him, but as flesh and bone (spiritual beings) on that day. It is those that have this hope in them that are the ones that look forward to seeing the Master and pray always for the hastening of that day to come. **I Jn 3:1-3; I Pet 1:7-9; Jn 20:29-31; Lk 24:36-40; I Cor 13:12; Job 19:25-27**

The end of our faith heralds the realization of our hope as it were. We shall see Christ as he truly is on that day.

CONCLUSION

Our faith is anchored on the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord from the dead, while our hope is anchored or based on our own resurrection from the dead as from the last day by Christ Jesus. Without our partaking or experiencing the 1st Resurrection then our hope cannot come to pass or become a reality. Our faith begins with the Common salvation and ends with the Eternal salvation which is our hope in Christ Jesus.

Rev 20: 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **Vr.5** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **Vr.6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Faith is seen by the works it produces, while Hope is unseen, but the Church as a business organization (CAO) have made out that you can see our eternal hope now by exercising our present faith in the now – this is a lie and an error that abounds in their teachings and practices today of their feigned faith.

They prophesy and promise their adherents such things that they do not get to enter into nor see thereby causing them to become miserable and frustrated in the faith that is hope to them. Hope that is seen is no longer hope, but the CAO promise hope that can be seen in this world. Our hope is spiritual and heavenly not natural and earthly as we have opined. **Colo 3:1-2**

Colo 1:4-5 (Vr.4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, **Vr.5** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Rom 5:1-2 (Vr.2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

That which we hope for eternally in Christ shall surely come to pass at his appearing in glory and not before then. Our hope is based on our earnest expectation of these spiritual things to happen then, when we shall be converted from human beings to spiritual beings by reason of the resurrection. Our Hope is based on that which is to come and not that which is already or can be in this present world. Our hope is based on incorruptible, eternal things and not corruptible, temporal things of this world that pass away. **I Pet 1:3-5**

2 Cor 4:17-18 (Vr.18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal [*herein lieth our hope*].

Jam 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. **Vr.8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh

Lk 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. **Vr.29** And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; **Vr.30** When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. **Vr.31** So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. **Vr.32** Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. **Vr.33** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **Vr.34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. **Vr.35** For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Vr.36** Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Our hope is in the God that raiseth up the dead, and our faith is in the God who raised up Jesus Christ from the dead. This is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ in whom true Christians believe in. And He is different from the "God" that every other religious sect that believeth not in Christ as the Son of God, serve and worship in the world as it were. This is the hope of the true gospel that we preach and teach. **2 Cor 1:9; Lk 20:37-38; Colo 1:23**

The preaching of the gospel is the means by which we declare our faith and our hope in this LORD God through Jesus Christ His Son to the whole world. Unfortunately that is not what the CAO have gotten their adherents to be doing in their another gospel because it does not explicitly make known such truths. Rather they focus men on an earthly hope of long life and prosperity by a feigned faith. Therefore, many of the CAO adherents do not know the one true God neither the true understanding of the hope of our calling in Christ Jesus whom He sent. **Mk 16:15-16; Jn 17:1-3**

Colo 1: 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, **Vr.5** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; **Vr.6** Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: **Vr.23** If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

To reiterate, our faith and our hope is predicated on the resurrection from the dead unto life eternal. This, our Lord and Master kick started for all that would believe in him to follow suit after him. Our faith and our hope define the beginning and ending of our Christian living here on earth as humans, that is, as flesh and blood. All our aspirations and destiny as saints in this world are meant to be captured within the scope of the understanding of our faith and hope. Christ is the beginning and end of our faith in hope as it were. **Hebr 12:2; Rev 22:12-14**

I Cor 15: 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. **Vr.23** But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming [*herein lieth our faith and hope fulfillment*].

Tit 3:5-8 (Vr.7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Tit 1:1-3 (Vr.1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; **Vr.2** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; **Vr.3** But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;

We are running a heavenly race not an earthly one. The CAO preaches the another gospel that offers an earthly hope, glory, life, reward cum pleasure, rather than the true gospel that offers an heavenly hope of glory, peace, prosperity, pleasure, etc. After having submitted to go through an earthly suffering of persecutions, afflictions and trials for Christ and the gospel of truth sake, we look forward to a heaven inheritance cum reward. **Mtt 6:32-33; Mtt 19:27-29; Lk 14:12-14; Lk 6:20-26**

Therefore, brethren, be strong in faith, walk in the Spirit and stagger not at the promises of God through unbelief but believe in hope till the end unto entering the eternal inheritance at the last day. May the Lord God give you revelation and understanding of the hope of his calling upon your life as an elect of God in Jesus name. Amen.

We encourage you to also get and read our previous literature titled “Let’s Talk About Hope” for additional insights. May the good Lord keep you in this faith and hope till the end.

The just that live by faith in this world have the hope of partaking of the resurrection of the just unto life eternal at the end. This is the beginning and the ending of the just found by faith in Christ in this world of humans. **Hebr 10:37-39; Lk 14:14**

I Thess 4: 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Lam 3: 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking time to read this literature. If you have been blessed by it and wish to send comments, make enquiries or get access to various other literatures that the author has put out, then you can contact us via email info@devoutmenministry.com or send SMS to 08091764495 or visit us @ www.devoutmenministry.com. God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.