

Eight Blessings of Salvation. Sermon 7

Faith and Hope

Romans 5:1 – 5

“Therefore being justified by faith” 1a “And patience, experience; and experience, hope:” V. 4

As Christians we cannot ever count our blessings because blessings for Christians are every where in our life. Blessings we never see because God showers us with them. God’s promise in Romans 8:28 holds true, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* God never said we would see the good, not did God say we would be happy with the good, because all we see is what we are able to physically see, we cannot see the underworking’s of God in our life. Here are 8 blessing in our salvation, faith, peace with God, access to God, we are able to glory in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, And patience, experience; and experience, hope. I love to put faith and hope together because they belong together. I believe this is why God started with faith and ended with hope.

A. Faith

1. God defined hope this way, **Hebrews 11:1** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Faith is us believing what is happening in our life is the workings of God.
2. We know that we have peace with God, we know that even in trials, tribulations, and even in persecution, God is doing the workings. And because God is the underline workings then we can have hope in them. Even if death is the final detail.
3. We cannot see God’s workings, but **WE KNOW** that all things are working to our good no matter what. We must understand that **ALL THINGS** are in Gods, knowledge, workings, and power, just as it was with Job.
4. Faith is our understanding that we believed God just as Abraham, just as those mentioned in Hebrews 11 “the chapter of faith”, and just as Job and all other Old Testament saints, they believed God, they trusted what God had told them. We as Christians stand on that same faith.

5. While we may not always see the workings of God in our life, we may not understand what God is doing, we may even hate what is happening, we have faith in God, and that faith gives us hope. Faith ties all these blessings of God together to give us hope in this life and this evil world.

B. Now let's look at Hope.

1. There is not any two words in the bible more important than faith and hope. It is because of our Faith in Jesus Christ that we have hope in God and what is happening is His doing.
2. Remember the word "experience" in Romans 5:4 means proof, proof is our "ground or confidence" both is salvation and in our tour of life on this earth.
3. Once death comes neither will exist anymore. We will not need faith because we will see, we will not need hope because hope has become reality.
4. "Faith gives reality or substance to things hoped for." Our salvation thru Jesus the Christ is the reality of eternal life that we have that hope.
5. Faith gives that reality that everything happening in life is God's doing and in the end, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God..." Rom. 8:28 The question is, how strong is your faith in God and your hope that God is controlling them.
6. Listen to Job, **Job 1:21 – 22** "*And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*"
7. Job did not charge God foolishly! Oh, but many weak and whiny Christians do charge God foolishly, because they have not been taught that all things are in God's hands and power, and He promised that all things will work together for our good.
8. Job realized that if he had lost all that God had blessed him with that God took it and he was still going to bless God and not foolishly charge God and "Neither did he speak any foolish thing against God." "nor murmured foolishly against God." He never asked, "why did God allow this to happen" or "where was God" as though God had left him alone which God promised all Christians He would never do.
9. **Job 34:10** "*Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity.*"

10. **Job 34:18 - 19** *“Is it fit to say to a king, Thou art wicked? and to princes, Ye are ungodly? How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? **for they all are the work of his hands.**”*
11. **Romans 9:18 - 21** "Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"
12. Folks, there is noting in our life that is not controlled by the ordained, predetermined will of God. We are simply lumps of clay that God has molded and made us to be. **Ephesians 2:10** *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*
13. If we lack in faith and hope, we need to study and pray a lot more because we do not understand the working and promise of God in our life. Just because some does not understand or fine it “unthinkable” that God does these things, that does not make them untrue.
14. **Romans 5:5** *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*
15. But it all starts with faith, and it all ends with hope. Faith begins by believing on Jesus Christ as our Saviour. **1 John 5:9 - 12** *“If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*