Hope is More Than a Thought

Hebrews 11:1

We live in times of uncertainty. It is written on everyone's face. We do not know what the next day will bring into our lives. People are losing their jobs; and economic unrest seems to be nipping at our feet. These issues dominate the news and, as a result, our lives. We question our safety; we are wary of where we travel and to whom we speak. The level of our vulnerability has risen and there appears there is little anyone is willing to do about it. It is in these times that hope becomes important. Not just any kind of hope. I'm talking about the kind of hope that anchors us, sustains us, and keeps us moving forward when everything else around us appears unstable.

Faith can never be disconnected from hope. Hope gives us the vision to see a better tomorrow. Faith gives us the confidence to pursue it believing it is possible. Faith and hope are more than connected. They are the DNA of divine faith. The bond that exists between them, if broken, dismantles our courage to persevere in the face of hardships. It is faith that provides assurance. Assurance translates into confidence, a level of certainty. With certainty comes a degree of security. While we know nothing is 100% secure, it is faith that gives each of us enough confidence to remain comfortably secure in the lives we are living.

Faith and hope are deeply interconnected, yet each serves a distinct role in our spiritual and emotional lives. Hebrews 11:1 describes faith as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” This means that faith is not just wishful thinking but a firm trust in something beyond our immediate perception.

While we live in this reality, hope is a vision for the future. Hope is more than an idea; it is more than a thought that inspires us. It is an investment that we make in God. It is trust in God that moves us to believe He will work things out for our good. Even though hope is the vision of something not yet realized, a future that we long for, it is hope that fuels our desire to keep moving forward, even when our circumstances don’t yet reflect the reality we hope for. It is the mental and emotional energy that sustains us when challenges arise. Whatever we are confronted with, hope is the belief that we will get through it. Hope gives us a level of expectation that something good will happen to us.

There is a difference between hope and expectation. Expectation is an assumption about how something should happen. When things do not happen the way we want, the way we have formed the picture in our minds, we are disappointed. We have examples of this: we expect our friends or political leaders to perform at a certain level or in a certain way. When they do not, we are disappointed.

Hope is different, hope acknowledges the challenges that are before us. Hope helps us understand the outcome may not be what we want. However, hope chooses to believe in the goodness of God, anyway.

Hope is not tied to the outcome but anchored in the truth of God's unchanging nature. Expectations demand a specific result.

Expectations are just controls projected into the future. Hope trusts in whatever God does is for our good. Even in our disappointment, hope informs us that God is still working on our behalf.

Hope fuels our joy. Hope gives energy to our days. Isaiah 40:31 says, " They that wait (hope) on the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." Hope is the fuel that gives us the strength to push on, even when times are tough.

These are uncertain times. But we do not have to live in fear. Our hope is not in political leaders, the economy or world systems. Our hope is in the Lord. It is our hope in Him that will continue to help us to look into the future. Because this world is not our final home. We have the assurance of eternal life. A life lived in the presence and security of God. So let us push forward in the hope that faith and trust in God guarantees us. Have faith in God.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool