The God Kind of Hope

Psalm 42:5

The “God Kind of Hope” is founded on the “God Kind of Trust”. Hope cannot exist without faith and trust being the foundation it stands on. Ordinary trust is based on human experience. It is the kind of trust we have in people and institutions. Ordinary trust is what we “believe” is reliable. We lend people money, and they tell us it will be paid on a certain day and they do not repay us on that day. They were not reliable. We trust chairs because they have held our bodies in the past—most of the time they do. But on rare occasions, there may be a defect and the chair collapses when we sit down on it. We thought the chair to be reliable, but it was not.

The “God Kind of Trust” takes us to another level, much higher than the trust we have for a chair. The “God Kind of Trust” transcends ordinary trust. The “God Kind of Trust” is rooted in biblical faith. I stress biblical faith because biblical faith is more than mere belief. Biblical faith is steadfastly trusting in God. Biblical faith is having an unwavering faith in God. Believing is accepting a statement is true or that something exists based upon information or evidence. We believe the earth rotates around the sun because we learned this in school.

Biblical faith is different. Biblical faith goes beyond mere belief. Biblical faith is the profound assurance and trust in someone or something without any tangible proof. Biblical faith is founded upon certain unfailing suppositions:

1. Belief in God’s Existence: Faith starts with the belief that God exists and is active in the world.
2. Trust in God’s Character: Faith involves trusting that God is good, loving, and just.
3. Confidence in God’s Promises: Faith includes a confident expectation that God will fulfill His promises as revealed in the Bible.
4. Reliance on God for Salvation: Faith trusts God’s provision of salvation through Jesus Christ.
5. Commitment to God’s Will: Faith leads to a commitment to live according to God’s will and commands.

Biblical faith is not blind faith, it is based upon the historical evidence of God's actions, the testimony of the Bible, and the personal experience of every believer. Biblical faith is not just believing God is real. It is living in a way that testifies that God is real.

Let me continue by saying biblical truth is not relative truth. Biblical truth is truth grounded in the absolute. Biblical truth is not dependent upon circumstances. Its only standard is the Word and will of God.

Relative truth varies from person to person. Relative truth is dependent upon the background of the individual. Relative truth is dependent upon someone's perspective. Relative truth is not grounded in the Absolute. Christianity is based on the belief in Absolute truth. Absolute truth is unchanging and universal. Absolute truth is grounded in the Bible and the Character of God. Relative truth is a truth that can change based on someone's perspective, culture, or upbringing.

Returning to "The God Kind of Hope", it cannot be separated from the "God Kind of Trust". The "God Kind of Hope" incorporates the following points:

1. It begins with trust in God's nature and God's promises. This trust is rooted, and grounded in the belief that God is real, God is All-Powerful, God is good, and God is faithful.
2. From this trust comes hope. Hope is born because we trust in God's character, and we hope that God's promises will be fulfilled. Character is who God is. When you talk about someone's character you are describing who you think they are on the inside. Regardless of what they show on the outside.
3. Hope feeds trust. Hope is always based on trust. We hope in God's promises because we have placed our trust in God. There is no hope where trust is absent.
4. Trust is the necessary and needed ingredient that sustains hope. Trust keeps hope alive. Even when circumstances are difficult it is the trust in God's plan and His ultimate goodness that keeps hope alive.
5. Both hope and trust manifest themselves in actions and decisions. Trusting in God influences how believers live their lives, and hoping in His promises guides our expectations for the future.
6. The relationship between hope and trust is cyclical. As hope grows, so does trust, and as trust deepens, hope becomes more profound.

This is the foundation upon which "The God Kind of Hope" stands.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool