The Role of Faith in our Audacity to Hope

Hebrews 11:1

In my message on the Audacity to Hope we discussed briefly the role of faith in moving forward into the future. The role of faith can never be underestimated or minimized in our effort to achieve the goals God has for us. There is a verse in the Bible that can turn doubt into unshakable faith. Hebrews 1:11 **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen."** This text places us in the center of God's divine operations. It informs us from the very beginning how central the role of faith is.

The audacity to hope; the courage to hope is what gives spiritual power to faith that what is being hoped for can be accomplished or received. Hope is an optimistic state of mind based on a genuine expectation or intense desire for certain things to happen. In the context of faith, hope is tied to the promises of God. When hope is tied to the promises of God it turns into Trust; which is a firm belief in the reliability, truth, or ability of someone or something. In this context, trust is often placed in God. We trust that He is who He says He is and will do what He has promised. We hope these promises will be fulfilled. The audacity to hope comes from the believer and is maintained throughout the process of trusting in God. The audacity, the courage to hope comes from a relationship that has developed over time. The kind of relationship that assures the believer that the one who gives courage will not fail to appear. This kind of hope is not borne out of a casual relationship with God.

Faith enables us to believe in the reality of God and God's promises. It is within this context that the Child of God engages in the "Audacity to Hope" in the worst of circumstances and the darkest of moments. It is this courage to trust in the knowledge of God that gives us the hope and faith that what I cannot see will come to pass. This verse tells that faith is having confidence and hope in the promises of God, even though they may not be visible or tangible. It's about trusting in God's words, knowing that He is faithful and will never go back on His promises.

The "assurance" and "conviction" of faith is not blind belief, gullibility, or wishful thinking. The persons mentioned in chapter 11 of Hebrews all had good reasons to trust in God. Their "faith" was not naively accepting fairy tales; it was acting in full confidence that God would do as He promised, based on what had been done for them in the past.

Our faith in God gives us hope in His promises. This hope, in turn, strengthened by God's word, strengthens our faith. As our faith in God's word grows, so does our trust in God. This trust then reinforces our hope and confidence in the promises of God.

So, while faith, hope, and trust are interconnected, they are not dependent. Instead, they reinforce and build upon each other, creating a strong foundation for a relationship with God.

It's also important to note that faith, hope, and trust are nurtured and grown through personal experiences. They are not just abstract concepts but are lived and experienced in tangible ways.

I hope this explanation helps clarify the relationship between faith, hope, and trust. If you have further questions, feel free to ask!

Blessings,
Pastor Gool