

The Confession of Our Hope - Pastor Robert Pears March 5, 2024

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The word for “substance” is “*hypostasis*,” meaning the thing that sets in place, put under, substructure, foundation, or that which has a foundation or substance. Faith and hope are connected, and here we see that faith is the foundation, substructure, or substance of things hoped for. Further, faith is the evidence of those things which are still not seen with the physical eye.

Paul said in the letter to the Romans:

Romans 8:24 For we were saved in this hope that is seen is not hope; for why does not one still hope for what he sees? *KJV 25* But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

We know we are saved by grace through faith, but to have faith there must be a hope. Paul add:

Romans 8:25&26 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself groanings which cannot be uttered. *KJV 27* And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

When it comes to salvation, we must first recognize our need for it; that means we see the dire situation of the earth and our need regarding eternity. We cry out for His salvation in faith, trusting that even though we may not see or feel anything, we have hope.

Regarding this hope that we long to see, we long with a consistent look for and expectation to receive. The Greeks point to a consistency of our looking for this salvation. In fact, the Spirit Himself prays through us that we might receive this hope of salvation.

In the letter to the Hebrews, we see:

Hebrews 9:27, 28 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly await for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

The fullness of our salvation, or our hope, is fulfilled when He returns for the Church. We have an appointment one of these days when we will meet Him Going back to Romans eight, we read:

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

John explains in his letter that when we meet Him, we will finally be like Him, for we will see Him as He truly is. This is the moment when we will receive glorified bodies. So, we know that there is a day coming when we will stand before Him, and this mortality will take on immortality. Paul said:

2 Corinthians 5:1-7 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from Heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this test groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this

very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Once again, Paul, in talking about faith, explains our hope is in the completion of our salvation when Jesus returns for the Church. While we are on this earth, we are subject to mortality and weakness. Such that while we are on this earth and subject to such mortality and weakness, we are dependent on Him. This physical body is subject to weakness and death; that is, we need to eat, clothes, shelter, and other things like social interactions.

This is where we must look to Him and His salvation.

Hebrews 2:3-4 How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Now, we know when we enter eternity, the gifts will cease, so they are for this present dispensation and His current economy of grace. We are wondered here not to neglect so great of salvation that He has wonderfully and powerfully confirmed. The Greek word for salvation here is “*Soteria*” and its meaning includes:

- Salvation
- Deliverance
- Healing
- Provision

Now listen to this:

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. *KJV : ...lest at any time we should let them slip.*

What we hear is critical. If we hear the Word in the Secret Place of His Presence, we gain a clear vision or hope of His salvation. We know Him, who we are in Him, and His provisions for us NOW and in the future.

Hebrews 10:23&24 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He promised is faithful. *KJV Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;)*

Here we see the call of the Secret Place and as abide in the Secret Place to fully understand Who He is, who we are in Him, and our inheritance. This becomes the confession of our hope. We need to preach to ourselves our hope in Him. In this world we hear the fear of this world but we are to take heed what we hear. It is critical that we learn from His Word the truths of our salvation and learn to make confession of these truths in our lives. We are to restrain ourselves in our weak human flesh with the strength of His promises.

The word for “confession” is the Greek word, “*homologia*,” which means to speak the same as, or we are to speak the same as, the Word in our lives and regarding our lives.

You can tell the true hope we hold by our words because our heart will betray us (**Luke 6:45** *out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks*). It is in the heart we develop this hope, which causes faith to form. Faith becomes the confirmation or the evidence of what we hold as true in our hearts. We need to learn to develop our confession of that hope by building an abundance of the promises from His Word in our hearts until they are in abundance.