

Faith - Hope - Love

Teacher's Notes

Lou Holtz Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wMmcoPTmAs>

Where does the Bible talk about Faith Hope and Love?

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

Faith, Hope and Love

Faith

Faith - Believing, Speaking and taking action. (Rom 10:10; James 2:17-26)

Spirit of Faith: I believe therefore we speak. (2 Cor. 4:13)

Substance of things hoped for (Heb 11:1)

Hope:

Hope - Vision, (a view of the future)

Rats Swimming

Hope is vision

But hope & vision alone won't do it, It takes action which is part of real faith. Faith without works is dead. So hope & vision is what gives direction & purpose to your faith.

Love: (agape/agapao)

Love is Commitment, never quitting

Love never fails - does not quit

Another Passage that talks about Faith Hope and Love

Galatians 5:5-6 (KJV)

⁵ For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. .

To "wait" is sort of like (love) commitment (love), i.e., hanging in there. But even if you choose not to look at it that way, "love" is mentioned in the next verse.

⁶ For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but

faith which worketh by love

Must Have all Three

Faith Hope and Love all work together to create a functioning Christian and Church.

Without faith, we won't have hope or walk in love

Without hope, we have no vision and do not look forward

Without love, we have not ability to hang in there and see our faith/work and our hope fulfilled.

We walk in faith with hope because we love (have commitment) to the cause.

Primary Focus of Love

Who Do We Love? _____

Mark 12:30-31 (NKJV)

³⁰ *And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* This is the first commandment.

³¹ And the second, like it, is this: *'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no other commandment greater than these."

Primary Focus of Faith and Hope (faith is the substance of things hoped for)

What do Love? _____

2 Timothy 4:8 (KJV)

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love his appearing.**

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

³³ But seek first **the kingdom** of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Points from Lou Holtz video

Always moving Forward (hope is looking forward - see Pr 29:18)

Not growing, we are dying.

Our Goal is not to maintain.

Our goal is to make disciples - and making a disciple starts with winning a soul.

See Addendum on Discipleship (next page)

Discipleship and Soul Winning

Discipleship

The primary purpose of church gatherings is discipleship (Matt 28:19), i.e., the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12). Missing this simple fact has led many Christians and Churches off track. When we see the church as the place for soul winning, we begin seeking ways to attract non-Christians to our “church events.” This is often the first step toward compromise because, the goal has just shifted from discipleship to making people comfortable and keeping them coming to our church events. As a result, there is a tendency to scale back on prayer, true worship, training and equipping, which is the true purpose of church gatherings.

Evangelism

Evangelism is meant to be outside the church. Our everyday lives on the street or in the workplace is where evangelism and soul winning takes place. Christians living their beliefs in everyday life is much more powerful than a lecture given to people sitting in rows on Sunday Morning.

The gospel message is not comfortable. However, that does not mean we should be obnoxious or offensive. The uncomfortable gospel can and should be prefaced with acts of kindness or some other demonstration of the Spirit and Power. As Paul said,

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV)

⁴And my speech and my preaching *were* not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

There is nothing like a healing touch from Jesus to prepare a heart for the message of repentance and the lordship of Jesus.

In starting a small group church, a few Christians will begin to gathering on a regular basis and develop their common vision and goals. If relationships with unbelievers exist and they are open to attend, that is fine - so long as it does not compromise the focus of the gathering as described above. Members of a church should consider whether or not a person is ready for the “church atmosphere” before they invite them, or provide other activities that are more geared toward the unbeliever/unsaved.

One Disciple

Primarily, it should be the goal of every church member to reach out to the lost, demonstrate the living Lord, win them to Jesus and begin a discipleship relationship. What if every person had one disciple and was training that disciple to have one disciple?

Each one reach one. It is simple, but is getting past our own fears and comfort zones and beginning to reach out can be difficult for some. Most of us are afraid of opening the subject of

the gospel with people we know, not to mention those we don't know. However, It has been my experience that venturing into this are with a clear plan quickly moves from fear to fun and creates a great sense of satisfaction.