

FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

INTRO

1 Corinthians 13:13: *“And now these three remain: **faith, hope and love**. But the greatest of these is **love**”* (NIV)

This is really 3 sermons in one! The only way we CAN live as Christians

- Only way to survive as Christians
- Only way to be fruitful
- Only way to have abundant life

Q) Why are these 3 the most important? Why not peace, joy and self control?

1. FAITH

Hebrews 11:1 says, *“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”*. (NIV)

Faith and trust (*rely on*) are the same - In Italian, *fede* and *fiducia* have the same origin. **To have faith is to trust.**

What is the object of our faith? **GOD!**

That’s why we can be so sure and certain when it is God’s will. **EXPLAIN**

Hebrews 11:6 says *“and without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”* (NIV)

CLIP – “Case for Faith” – clip 1

Do you see why FAITH is so important? Losing it means losing touch with Jesus

QUOTES:

- **CS Lewis** said *“faith is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods”*
- *“faith hears the inaudible, sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible”* – **Corrie Ten Boom**

VERSES:

- **Matthew 9:22** - *"Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment."* (NIV) - **Faith heals**
- **Ephesians 2:8** - *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God"* (NIV) - **Faith saves**
- **Job 19:25** - *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth"* (NIV) - **Faith perseveres**

LIFE APPLICATION:

- i. When you feel down, Believe what God's Word says
- ii. When you pray, know God hears you and will answer
- iii. Read God's promises and purposes for your life

TRY: Read the verses on faith in the word. Pray for the impossible in your life.

2. HOPE

Titus 1:1-2 says we have *"a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time"* (NIV)

Not an earthly hope, like hoping your football team wins. WHY?
What is the object of our hope? **GOD! Who doesn't disappoint**

Q) Do you have an abundant life? Or feel God's joy & excitement?
Without Hope there is NO joy or excitement!!

CLIP – "Shawshank Redemption" - 2:09:40 – 2:12:37 - DVD

The hope of being with Lord should fill us with such joy and peace.
But we must choose to make that hope real in our lives.

QUOTE:

Martin Luther King once said *"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream"*

These aren't pie in the sky ideas, these are realities that kept people like King going!!! This is real life.

VERSES:

- **Romans 5:5** - *"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us"* (NIV) - **Hope of love**

- **Colossians 1:27** – “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (NIV) - **Hope of glory**
- **Hebrews 6:19** – “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (NIV) - **Hope is an anchor**

LIFE APPLICATION: HOPE...

- Helps us to love people who are hard to love because we know there's something better waiting for us
- Helps us persevere and keep on going.
- Helps us to see past suffering, pain and illness
- Helps us to do menial tasks
E.g. “Only one last, hard week at work until the holidays!”

TRY: Meditate every morning what it will be like to be with Jesus

3. LOVE

1 John 4:8 (NIV) – “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love”

Q) *Why is Love the greatest of these?*

It lasts the longest!!!

It's the governing principle of heaven.

We will no longer need faith or hope. Love will always be there

To truly love is to be Christian

Love God, Love others and Love our enemies

CLIP – Martin Luther King – clip 2

“We love every man because God loves him”

“Not like but Love”

God's agape or unconditional love. EXPLAIN

THIS IS THE LOVE THAT WE NEED, TO STAND OUT AND CHANGE THE WORLD!

John 13:35 – love the key as disciples

QUOTES:

- *“the supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved”* **Victor Hugo** – French poet
- *“It is easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbour”* **Eric Hoffer** – American sociologist

VERSE:

1 Corinthians 13:1- 8, 13 says *"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails...

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
(NIV)

LIFE APPLICATION:

- i. Know God loves you more than you could imagine
- ii. Ask for His love in your life everyday
- iii. Choose to love all people regardless
- iv. To see potential in people. See what God sees

TRY: Begin to pray and do something loving for someone who isn't nice to you

CONCLUDE

James 1:6 says *"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."* (NIV)

Unless we put these 3 into action we will be tossed about, up and down in our feels and unproductivity.

- **Faith** = Tools, weapons we need to fight
- **Hope** = Energy and victory we need to keep going
- **Love** = Power/fuel and reason we need for serving

LET'S PRAY - To be fruitful & have abundant life
- To be filled with the Spirit to have faith, hope and to be loved and to love – God, the Church & the lost.