Abide In Faith, Hope & Love

Prepared By Nathan L Morrison For Sunday October 1st, 2017

Text: I Cor. 13:13; 15:58

# Intro

1. I Cor. 13:13: Though spiritual gifts would end *(13:9-10),* faith, hope and love will abide till the 2nd Coming of Christ, for then faith will be unnecessary! (I Jn. 3:2)

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| **First Century** | **Present** | **After Christ Returns** |
| Spiritual Gifts |  |  |
| Faith | Faith |  |
| Hope | Hope |  |
| Love | Love | Love |

* 1. The spiritual gifts fulfilled their purpose and have left behind faith and hope till Christ’s return, and love will last forever!

1. I Cor. 15:58: In order to abide in faith, hope and love, it requires steadfastness (Immovable)!
   1. Heb. 10:32-39: Despite the trials & storms of life saints are called to not “shrink back” but stand firm in our faith “to the preserving of the soul.”
2. The symbolic “storms of life” we encounter in our lives are very real.
   1. We may encounter economic (jobs), physiological (health), psychological (mental) and philosophical (faith) storms throughout our life. These storms are real!
   2. We may encounter unseen reefs of false doctrine; treacherous shoals of discouragement; dangerous rocks of pride, covetousness, doubts and fears.
3. What holds us together during these “stormy” times in our life?
4. Be steadfast to abide in faith, hope & love!
5. Faith
   1. I Cor. 13:13:
      1. Faith, along with hope and love will abide till the 2nd Coming of Christ, for then faith will be unnecessary! (I Jn. 3:2: We will see God “just as He is!”)
   2. "Faith" defined:
6. Heb. 11:1: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” *(I Jn. 3:2: Will be done away with when we see God face-to-face)*
7. Our faith in the God (and His promises) can see us through any storm of life if it is grounded in His word! (I Cor. 16:13: “Stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong”)
   1. In the face of storms of life – Faith anchors us:
8. Eph. 4:11-15: Against false doctrine! (4:13: “Unity of faith”)
9. Eph. 6:16: Against temptation!
10. I Jn. 5:4: Against the world! *(II Jn. 2:15-17)*
11. I Pet. 1:9: To eternal life!
    1. Faith (Eph. 4:5: One Faith) in Christ (by grace) saves us! *(Eph. 2:8-9; I Pet. 1:9)*
    2. Abiding in faith grounds us to the Rock *(I Cor. 10:4: Christ),* and if strong, cannot be moved!
12. Hope
    1. I Cor. 13:13:
       1. Hope, along with faith and love will abide till the 2nd Coming of Christ, for then hope will be unnecessary! *(I Jn. 3:2)*
    2. "Hope" defined:
13. Rom. 8:24-25; II Pet. 3:10-12: We hope for what is not seen and eagerly wait for it!
14. *G1680 elpis [el-pece']:* To anticipate, usually with pleasure; expectation (abstract or concrete) or confidence: faith, hope. *(Rom. 8:25: With perseverance we eagerly wait)*
15. Hope is more than desire. Many things are desired with no expectation of attainment.
16. Hope is not merely expectation. A great deal of what is expected is not the least bit desirable.
17. Hope is desire mingled with expectation. That is, it is that which you anxi­ously look forward to having and fully anticipate receiving!
    1. In the face of storms of life – Hope anchors us:
    2. Heb. 6:17-20: Our souls are sure and steadfast!
    3. Heb. 6:17-18: To eternal life in the promises of God!
18. Two unchangeable things: His word and His oath regarding His promises! (Rom. 15:4: God’s word gives hope!)
19. It is impossible to imagine anything more secure or certain! *(Rom. 15:13: Hope in God’s promises is cause for joy!)*
    1. Eph. 4:4-6: As saints we are called to “one hope!”
    2. Abiding in hope grounds us to the promise of eternal life! *( I Jn. 2:25)*
20. Love
    1. I Cor. 13:8, 13:
       1. “Love never fails,” for even though one day “faith” and “hope” will no longer be necessary (When Christ comes again), love will endure!
       2. For it was with love God sent His Son *(Jn. 3:16),* and from love that Christ died for us *(Rom. 5:8),* and it is love for us that saints are promised eternal life! *(Jude 1:21)*
    2. In the face of storms of life – Love *(I Cor. 13:4-7: Defined)* anchors us:
21. To God: Jn. 14:15; I Jn. 2:4-6; 5:2-3 – In obedience to God we show our love!
22. To one another: Jn. 13:35; 15:12; I Jn. 3:17-18, 23; 4:7-11, 20-21 – In love for one another we show that we love God! *(I Cor. 16:14: “Let all that you do be done in love”)*
23. To the world: Acts 20:27; 24:25; II Tim. 2:24-26; Jude 1:22-23 – In teaching the gospel *(Rom. 1:16)* to the lost we show we love their souls! *(Lk. 19:10: Christ came to save the lost!)*
    1. Abiding in love grounds us to God, one another, and to our purpose in saving the lost! *(Rom. 1:16)*
24. Steadfastness
    1. I Cor. 15:58:
       1. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”
       2. Steadfastness is the quality we all need to abide in faith, hope & love to the finish line!
    2. In the face of storms of life – Steadfastness anchors us:
25. Jn. 8:31: In God’s word!
26. *Heb. 10:35-39;* Js. 1:2-4: In trials!
27. II Pet. 1:5-7: In godliness, which leads to entrance into the “the eternal kingdom” of Christ (1:10-11).
28. Js. 1:12; Rev. 2:10: In winning the “crown of life.” (I Cor. 9:24; II Tim. 4:6-8; Heb. 12:1)
    1. Heb. 10:35-39: The “storms of life” will test us, even our faith, and we must have endurance to not throw away our confidence and “not shrink back” *(Heb. 10:32-35)!*
    2. Abiding in faith, hope & love requires steadfastness and grounds us to God, for we are “those who have faith to the preserving of the soul!” *(Heb. 10:39)*

## Conclusion

1. These anchors of the soul help us to have that endurance to be “faithful till death” as Christ admonished the church at Smyrna to do in *Rev. 2:10*.
2. When the storms of life hit us with its troubles and persecutions, if anchored firmly in Christ, though tossed about, we will remain grounded!
   1. Our faith, hope, love, and steadfastness (I Cor. 13:7) in Christ ought to be immovable if grounded on the Rock *(Christ – I Cor. 10:4)!*
   2. The promises of God are unalterable, unbreakable! *(Heb. 6:18-19)*
3. Anchored to the Rock that is Christ *(I Cor. 10:4)* let us abide in faith, hope & love and nothing will move us or shake us, but we will weather the storms (trials) of life!
4. If you have not obeyed the gospel, ***NOW’s*** the chance. You can have a hope so sure and steadfast, that nothing will take it away from you. Repent and be baptized!
5. If a Christian who has wandered your own path, ***NOW’s*** the time to come home. Repent of your sins and ask God for forgiveness and be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests let them be known, come forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!