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FAITH or HOPE?

Jack said, "I am claiming my healing by FAITH!" even while his arm was in the sling and he could not work.

Jane said, "I HOPE that GOD changes me so that I do overcome the last enemy - death!"

Both were right.

However, Tom said, "I HOPE that I get healed." And Dick said, "I'm claiming by FAITH that I'll never die!" But Harry said, "I'm tired of WAITING for GOD to change my mind to the mind of CHRIST. I know that it is His will, so I'll start claiming it by FAITH!"

All three were wrong.

When, then, should a person HOPE for something?

When should a Christian take it by FAITH?

Presently, I think that the misunderstanding about these two Bible words accounts for a lot of church trouble. It also keeps Christians from receiving what is rightfully theirs.

THE FAITH MOVEMENT

A new denomination has arisen among the Charismatics that specializes in teaching FAITH. I personally will not find fault, but I have recently been exposed to a lot of preachers who are very upset about the excesses of the FAITH MOVEMENT. I have heard about one FAITH church in Indiana where death has resulted in families who exercised blind FAITH for healing, who refused medical help, and who had to pay funeral bills instead of hospital bills.

Something inside me shouts out that it is a lot better to pay a hospital bill than a funeral bill. But, in my society I feel that I have been shouted down by preachers

and Christians who scream, "Where's your FAITH?" Sometimes I feel like shouting back, "Where's the beef?"

FAITH BALANCED BY HOPE

By this article I am calling for a return to our senses and a balanced application of both spiritual powers, FAITH and HOPE! Let's try to act like Christians instead of shooting each other because of a disagreement in theology.

I am now going to give a definition of FAITH and HOPE which I sincerely believe is unique. By that, I mean it is not out of a dictionary or a Bible encyclopedia. This definition is based on many years of Bible reading, teaching and counselling.

FAITH is the present tense of the future tense verb HOPE.

HOPE is the future tense of the present tense verb FAITH.

In other words, FAITH is for today and HOPE is for tomorrow.

FAITH is in my own control right now.

HOPE is in the control of someone else, and I anticipate its manifestation to my sense world (see, hear, taste, smell, feel) in the future.

FAITH is the substance of things HOPED for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

PAST PRESENT FUTURE

JESUS demonstrated the play on verb tense when he said, "You have the FAITH of GOD. (The GOD kind of FAITH). Whosoever shall say to the mountain (problem in life), Be removed, and shall not doubt, but shall believe that what he said (past tense) shall come to pass (future); he shall have (fu-

ture) whatever he said (past)." Paraphrased from Mark 11:22-23).

In other words, you'll get what you said you got. The big problem for us Christians who are maturing is to patiently walk the path from the time we said we got it - to the time that we really do get it. This works for healing, cars or anything. A lot of people take pot-shots at us while we are waiting to get what we said we got. It is during this period that many people are willing to call us crazy, and perhaps with a little justification.

TWO KINDS OF HEALING

And a word about HEALING is appropriate now. Healing comes through two entirely different processes - both approved by the Bible and both used many times by JESUS. DUNAMIS HEALING comes through the miracle power of the spoken word, through FAITH. THERAPEUO comes through the natural power of the laying on of hands, through WORKS and FAITH. Presently, I am writing a whole book to show these differences. But for now, I only have space to say that if anyone makes fun of you for asking for miraculous healing prayer, then get away from them and get with people who believe in miracles. However, if a preacher belittles you for taking pills, going to the hospital, or such like, then get away from him and get with Bible oriented people who believe in THERAPEUO. In other words, people who practice both forms of healing are healthy. People who practice one form and exclude the other are sick (like the FAITH group in Indiana).

HOPE

It is interesting to note that the concept of HOPE does NOT appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark or John.

HOPE appears twice in Luke, and in both cases we don't learn very much.

So, if we are going to learn about HOPE it will have to mainly come from the Apostle Paul.

Here are some examples from Paul.

"The creature (physical body) was made subject to vanity, not willing, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in HOPE, Because the creature (physical body) itself also shall be (future) delivered from the bondage of corruption (that which makes our hair turn gray and shortens our steps)

into the glorious liberty of the children (SONS) of GOD. For we know that the whole creation (every creature - that ever had a physical body) groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves (presently) also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, wait for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our BODY. For we are saved by HOPE (BODY salvation is by HOPE, not FAITH) but HOPE that is seen (presently) is NOT HOPE, for what a man seeth (presently), why does he yet HOPE for? But if we HOPE for that we see not (presently), then do we with patience WAIT for it." (From Romans 8:20-25).

I have added emphasis to the word WAIT because I believe the concept of WAITING has been mutilated by some (not all) faith teachers.

But another, perhaps more important point is just before the quoted passage, "The earnest expectation of the creature (physical BODY) WAITETH for the manifestation of the SONS OF GOD" (Rom. 8:19). To me, that means that we can expect the salvation, adoption, redemption, deliverance of the PHYSICAL BODY at the same time as the manifestation of the SONS OF GOD.

John the Apostle (not Paul) also connected the idea of SONS OF GOD with HOPE, "Beloved, now are we the SONS (Teknons, teenagers) of GOD, and it doth not yet (presently) appear what we shall be (future): but we know that when he shall (future) appear: we shall be (future) like him; for we shall (future) see him as he is. And every man that hath (presently) this HOPE in him purifieth himself" (I John 3:2-3).

In other words, the HOPE of BODY SALVATION makes a prudent person purify themselves the way CHRIST cleansed the church with the washing of water by the word. (Eph. 5:26).

Will you take a joke here? My wife Betty has spent her whole life in church and she says that many preachers mistakenly quote the above verse, "And every man that hath this HOPE in him purifieth his WIFE." It is amazing that we so often want to change others and not ourselves. Perhaps the mote and beam are appropriate here.

BY HOPE, NOT FAITH

I am more than a little disturbed by what I have seen going on in the BODY OF CHRIST throughout the country lately. Some preach-

ers are teaching their congregations to enter the third salvation, the salvation of the physical BODY, by FAITH. If that is not bad enough, they are all using my green book 1,2,3, THE THIRD SALVATION as their handbook in the churches (which associates me with their error).

The MANIFESTED SONS OF GOD movement made the same mistake back in the late '40's and early '50's. Here is what they did. They saw basically the same beautiful Bible truth that we are seeing now. But the deadly error was to claim by FAITH that they had been manifested. I cannot find anywhere that the Bible tells us to enter BODY salvation by FAITH. Universally, the Bible tells us that BODY salvation is by HOPE, not FAITH. They brought disrepute upon a beautiful Bible truth by claiming to be MANIFESTED SONS OF GOD and claiming that they had overcome the last enemy, death - but, they died. Furthermore, some committed immoral and unethical acts because they reasoned that every thought that they received was from GOD - after all, they thought that they were manifest! They saw the truth, claimed it by FAITH instead of by HOPE, set themselves as examples of superior Christians, messed up their lives, and the lives of others, and showed the world that their elevator did not go to the top floor.

FAITH and GRACE are for the SPIRIT salvation. "By GRACE are ye saved through FAITH, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD, not of WORKS, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

FAITH and WORKS are for SOUL salvation. "WORK out your own salvation (of your MIND SOUL v 5) with fear and trembling." (Phil. 2:12).

HOPE is for BODY salvation. "WAITING for the redemption of our body. For we are saved (in BODY) by HOPE" (Rom. 8:23).

STOLE THE CAR

There are some things that GOD has planned for us to walk in that are to be in His time, not ours. Paul said the same thing with different words. "The heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all (that's us) But is under tutors and governors (teachers and preachers) until the TIME appointed of the father (not the son). (Gal. 4).

A 15 year old lad stole his father's car keys. The father's plan was to give the

keys to the lad a year later. The son thought that he had all of the attributes necessary to drive the car. The father knew better; he understood the law, insurance liability and such like. As a result, the court will not let the lad drive a car until he is 21. Let us pray for wisdom to avoid such a costly error of self-manifestation.

We must WALK in those things that the Bible says are by FAITH.

We must WAIT for those things that the Bible says are by HOPE.

GOD! Give us the wisdom to know the difference.

THE GREEN BOOK

And so, with joy I report to you that the green book 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION has been making inroads into the church since 1974 and has resulted in starting many changes so that even today the electronic TV evangelists are quoting from it. I am grateful and humbled.

But with sorrow I must also report that some preachers have started again to make merchandise of the gospel by coming up with various formulas and different kinds of acts for their followers to participate in, so that they can do something by FAITH in order to enter the third step.

As an example, a big name preacher came to me in 1976 after reading 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION and asked me to join forces with him to promote the teaching by giving the people some act to do, like go to the altar for the first justification step, or like speaking in tongues for the second sanctification step. He wanted something to do (by FAITH) for the third glorification step. My response that we had to WAIT in HOPE did not satisfy him. So we parted company. Though my book 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION is still being used by his group, I must disclaim any fellowship with the idea that the third step is by FAITH. Universally, the Bible says it is by HOPE. I do not disclaim fellowship with HIM, because I love him as a Christian brother. But, I must strongly disclaim the idea of taking the third step by FAITH.

FAITH CHECKS - HOPE CHESTS

Awhile back, a student of the FAITH MESSAGE mailed a very large check to me. I was overwhelmed and humbled. By FAITH in the

fact that it was a good check, I wrote checks to pay a lot of bills. I did not know that he did not know the difference between FAITH and HOPE. His letter said that he was sending me the check by FAITH. When it bounced I learned that he had really sent it in HOPE that he would have enough money to cover it.

That is when I borrowed money by FAITH to cover my own checks that were written on a check of HOPE. Time healed the error and now everything is all right, but I HOPE that will not happen again.

Now, I always HOPE the checks will clear and I pay my bills by FAITH (the substance of things HOPEd for), after I know they have cleared.

BLESSING THIS MINISTRY

Every time in the past that I have shown how Bible patterns apply to today's controversial issues - I have lost friends and support.

The only way that I can keep going is to win more friends than I lose each month. Please pray for me. The race is hard.

OUT OF BOOKS

Last month I reordered 5000 more copies of the book 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION. Presently there are 20,000 copies in circulation. That's not bad for a little guy with no organization to help him. (While I'm boasting, let me boast in the LORD by saying that there are over 75,000 copies of the

little book WHO SAID RAPTURE in circulation.)

The cost of printing nearly tripled, but I have decided to keep the \$3.00 price tag. (The offer of one free book to anyone with a financial need is still available.)

By faith, and in honor of our dedication to the deep, heretofore hidden truths in the book 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION

We offer TWO for ONE (in APRIL, MAY and JUNE).

Order one, receive two - give one away. It's the Christian thing to do.

If you already have a copy, order one, receive two - and give both away. It's also the Christian way to act.

The following cassette tapes contain timely truth for this April Easter season.

For each title you circle and order, I'll send you a free copy of the reprinted book 1,2,3, THIRD SALVATION in the months of April, May and June. Study the tapes and give the books away. It is the Christian way to act.

Your friend will be blessed by the book
You will be blessed for your demonstration of FAITH.

I will be blessed by your letter.

The printer will be blessed when I pay the bill.

That's one way to get a lot of blessing out of one small act of FAITH!