

**FAITH, HOPE & WISFUL THINKING** M. A, DANIEL

**W**e continue our understanding of God of the new covenant by exploring fundamental elements that are crucial to receiving answers to our prayers. Many of what believers term faith is usually hope and most of the time just wishful thinking. I pray that this will help to clarify things a bit more for you.

**Faith**

1. Faith is now: **Heb 11:1.**
2. Faith comes by hearing: **Rom 10:17.**
3. Faith brings hope to fruition: **Heb 11: 1, Mat 9:22, Mark 5:34, Luke 18:42.**
4. Faith is evidence of what you have not seen: **Heb 11:1.**
5. We are commanded to live by it: **2Cor 5:7, Hab 2:4, Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Heb 10:38.**
6. We cannot please God without it: **Heb 11:6.**
7. Jesus is the Author and finisher of our faith: **Heb 12:2.**
8. Faith does something, it is not inactive: **Heb 11. James 2:18-24.**
9. Faith can be seen: **Mat 9:2, Mark 2:5, Luke 5:20.**
10. Faith can be inadequate: **Mat 6:30, Mat 17:20, Luke 12:28.**
11. Faith is paralysed by unbelief: **Mat 13:58, Mark 9:24, Rom 4:20, Rom 11:20-23.**
12. Faith has to be accompanied with works: **James 2:13-16.**
13. Faith can be strengthened: **Acts 16:5, Rom 1:12, Rom 14:1.**
14. Faith works by love: **Gal 5:6, 1Cor 13:2**
15. Faith can be killed without works: **James 2:17. James 2:26.**
16. Faith will be tested: **James 1:2-4.**
17. Faith overcomes the world: **1 John 5:4.**

**Hope**

1. Hope is in God: **Ps 25:31, Ps 33:20**
2. Hope is in the future: **Ps 130:5, Ps 131:3, Prov 23:18, Prov 24:14. Jer 29:11.**
3. Hope gives us reason to continue: **Micah 7:7, Rom 8:24**
4. Hope fills us with promises: **Mat 12:21, Rom 4:18, Rom 5:5.**

5. Hope is for the living: **Eccles 9:4. Prov 11:7.**
6. Hope develops patience: **Heb 10:23, Rom 5:4**
7. Love hopes: **1Cor 13:7**
8. We hope for eternal life: **Titus 3:7.**

**Wishful Thinking**

1. Based on imagination: **Is 65:2, Luke 12:19-21, Gal 3:3.**
  3. Denies existence of God: **Ps 14:1, 1Cor 3:19.**
  4. Plans without including God: **Prov 1:7, Prov 17:16, Prov 26:12.**
- Faith is what brings our expectation in the future into the

*"Faith is now, Hope is in the future, wishful thinking excludes God and is often self-centred."*

present. It is the confidence that assures you that what you hoped for in God has been granted. It does not mean you have it physically yet but you know without a shadow of doubt that you do. Faith has to be in God and not on anybody else for it to work; you will need to shut down your soul by filling it up with the promises of God so that all that comes out of your imagination are the promises of God. You will act like its real because it is to you. Faith is visible because that is how you live and everybody around you may not get it. Some may even challenge you. Faith is active; it is always accompanied with an action. You do something to prove that you believe God and that is what ultimately leads to the miracle. It may be waiting, preparing, going, and giving. Hope in God believes that all will happen in good time in the future. Faith drags hope to the present. You must always have hope and never give up on yourself or your circumstances. Hope is the ingredient faith works on.



Wishful thinking starts by excluding God. It is usually elaborate and colourful and very often self-centred. When it comes to fruition sometimes, (because hard work counts for some) that is what we call luck. There are many lucky people on the world's list of successful people. How they end will prove if they have been a blessing or not. God commands us in at least three places in the Bible that we must live by faith; I am trying to what about you? God bless.

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