

Faith and Hope

by

Phil Rasmussen

Two words, with different meanings, that are mistakenly used interchangeably.

We often hear politicians say, “I have **faith** in Americans to. . .” What they really mean is “I **hope** that they will. . .”

Hope has different meanings based on how it is defined and used.

Hope (Dictionary) – a feeling of expectation, a desire or wish for a certain thing to happen.

Hope (Bible) – an expectation with certainty that God will do what he has said.

[\[Bible Study Tools\]](#)

A general interpretation of Hope is a desire or anticipation for something. Some examples are:

- I hope Mom will buy me some ice-cream.
- I hope our baby will be a girl/boy.
- I hope that my cancer will be cured
- I hope that my taxes don't go up this year.

The desires can be tangible or not. Hope is a feeling of expectation, a desire or wish for specific things to happen as they relate to our perception of the future. “The power of hope lies in its ability to fuel our dreams and aspirations, keeping us motivated and focused on what lies ahead.” [\[Exploring Biblical Wonders\]](#)

The **Bible** contains many passages discussing the relationship between faith and hope. **Hebrews 11:1** describes this relationship as “*Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*” In other words, faith is a complete trust/confidence in something.

Faith is grounded in the reality of the past; hope is looking to the reality of the future. Without faith, there is no hope, and without hope there is no true faith. Christians are people of faith and hope. We have “the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time” (**Titus 1:2**).

Faith is the foundation on which hope is built. Hope is the fuel that propels our faith forward, providing us with the anticipation of what is to come. It bridges the gap between our present circumstances and the fulfillment of our deepest desires.

Faith	Hope
Characterized by a sense of absolute certainty and conviction.	Focused on the possibilities and perceptions of the future.
Requires trust and confidence in things not immediately seen or proven.	A feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.
Associated with religion and spirituality.	Can be applied to any aspect of life.
Is focused on the present.	Hope is more focused on the future
A deep-seated conviction that things will work out, even if you can't see how.	A more positive attitude that things will get better. Usually what people hold onto when there seems to be no other option.
Complete confidence/conviction in something, even if there's no way to prove its existence.	Uncertainty because there's no guarantee that what you hope for will happen.
Inwardly focused on personal beliefs and spirituality.	Outwardly focused on the future and what's to come.

[\[The Witness\]](#)

We need both faith and hope in our lives. Together, they play significant roles in our daily lives by influencing our thoughts, emotions, and actions. Faith and Hope can:

- bring certainty and confidence
- provide grace and divine support
- give us a sense of purpose and meaning
- shape our perception and attitude
- create lives that are inspiring and motivating

As Christians, **Faith** and **Hope** are central to our beliefs and guide us in our interactions with others and our Lord. By embracing faith and hope, we have purpose and can inspire others.