

Faith Hope and Love

Opening 5 minutes

Thanks for the opportunity

My wife Noemi and I are active at The Master's Hand Christian Fellowship at 70 Church St in New Rochelle, NY

Man to Man Men's meeting the third Saturday of every month at 8:30 AM.

Mobile Food Truck the second Saturday every month at 9:30 AM

Children's Ministry during Sunday morning services at 10:30 AM

Project Rise Adult Learning Center ESOL classes at <https://projectrisealc.com>.

TMH is where we met Reverend Joseph Cohen

I help him with his website at <https://newhopeinthelord.com>

and recommend his YouTube channel New Hope in the Lord

And, a daily devotional that goes to a number of his ministry contacts, many in Africa and India at <https://tellone.org>.

My wife and I also facilitate the Prepare-Enrich marriage assessment through our web site <https://mymarriagementors.org>.

Be Born Again 10 minutes

I could talk to you about my experience as a Christian

- Dedicated myself to tithe as a young husband and father of three. Didn't have money for gas to get to work for my next paycheck. Man at my door...
- Excruciating back pain, three bad disks, surgery. But When I heard the word surgery, something in me said no! In a week I had a different direction, change in my behavior, in a month, no more pain.

But let me instead make this invitation:

Many people have heard

[John 3:16](#) For in this way God loved the world, so that he gave his one and only Son, in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life.

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your savior, ask him to forgive you and to show himself to you. God says

[Romans 10:9–10](#) (LEB)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation.

but here is the message I want to talk to you about as a long time Christian.

What does it mean to live for God?

Faith Hope and Love 5 minutes

Here is the thing, once we are born again, we are to live the Christian life. This is explained in

[Colossians 3:5–11](#) Therefore put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustful passion, evil desire, and greediness, which is idolatry, ⁶ because of which the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which also you once lived, when you used to live in them. ⁸ But now you also lay aside all *these* things: anger, rage, wickedness, slander, abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, *because you* have taken off the old man together with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created him, ¹¹ where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, *or* free, but Christ *is* all, and in all.

That is the way we were, that is the old behaviour of our fleshly nature but now we have a new nature in

[Colossians 3:12–17](#) Therefore, as *the* chosen of God, holy and *dearly* loved, put on affection, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, ¹³ putting up with one another and forgiving one another. If anyone should have a complaint against anyone, just as also the Lord forgave you, thus also you *do the same*. ¹⁴ And to all these *things add* love, which is *the* bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And the peace of Christ must rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body, and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, with psalms, hymns, *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God, ¹⁷ and everything [whatever] you do in word or in deed, giving thanks *for all things* in the name of the Lord Jesus to God the Father through him.

Paul sums it up simply in

[Ephesians 4:1–3](#) Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to live in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called: ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, putting up with one another in love, ³ being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;

Then Paul goes on to talk about gifts in the Church and I will call them leadership gifts in

[Ephesians 4:11–13](#) And he himself gave some *as* apostles and some *as* prophets and some *as* evangelists and some *as* pastors and teachers ¹² for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ,

but these gifts are not the same as the spiritual gifts in [1 Corinthians 12-14](#). There are many doctrinal differences around these gifts and the operation of the Holy Spirit but the Apostle Paul who wrote this, focuses on three things and this applies to every one in the body of Christ in:

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) And now these three things remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

These three are primary ingredients for our life as Christians.

Faith 10 minutes

What is faith? It is what you believe about God. It is defined in

[Hebrews 11:1](#) Now faith is the realization of what is hoped for, the proof of things not seen.

but this goes on to say in

[Hebrews 11:6](#) Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*, for the one who approaches God must believe that he exists and is a rewarder of those who seek him.

Faith is believing that God is what He says He is, good, a father desiring what is best for us. Jesus said it this way to his disciples in

[Mark 11:22](#) And Jesus answered *and* said to them, “Have faith in God!

then he went on to say in

[Mark 11:24](#) For this *reason* I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received *it*, and it will be *done* for you.

This isn't a magic wand, but it represents the authority we have as human beings on the earth. We have choices to make about our own life and the lives of those around us. Let me sum up Faith with

[Hebrews 6:12](#) in order that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who inherit the promises through faith and patience.

How to Evaluate Faith

Scripture Reading: [Ephesians 6:10–18](#)

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” ([Eph. 6:16](#)).

I. Its Importance

“Above all ...” ([Eph. 6:16](#)).

- A. Faith is important because it is the way to receive God. He comes not by feelings or sight but by faith.
- B. Faith is important because it is the way to receive from God. God provides for us according to our faith.
- C. Faith is important because it can be a way of life. The just are to live by faith ([Rom. 1:17](#)).

II. Its Availability

“Taking the shield of faith ...” ([Eph. 6:16](#)).

- A. Faith is available because it is God’s will that we have it.
- B. We cannot buy faith; we cannot earn it; we are to simply take it. It is God’s free gift.
- C. Faith increases with practice and use. Faith works as we work our faith.

III. Its Power

“Wherewith ye shall be able ...” ([Eph. 6:16](#)).

- A. There is great power in faith—the power of God. The Bible says that nothing is impossible to those who believe.
- B. The power of faith enables us, with the apostle Paul, to do all things through Christ’s strength.
- C. The power of faith enables us to live victoriously, to serve effectively, and to praise the Lord wholeheartedly.

IV. Its Extent

“To quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” ([Eph. 6:16](#)).

- A. There is no problem too big for faith, no mountain too high, no valley too deep, no burden too heavy, no task too difficult.
- B. By faith we are able to quench, extinguish, put out *all* the fiery, flaming darts of the wicked one.
- C. Its extent is great because faith joins the Christian to Omnipotence.

¹ Spray, R. E. (1984). *“How to ...” Sermon Outlines* (p. 23). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

How to Increase Your Faith

“The apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith” ([Luke 17:5](#)).

I. Think Faith

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” ([Phil. 2:5](#)).

- A. Negative thinking must be discarded. It is displeasing to God.
- B. Fill your mind with thoughts of praise and assurance. Think faith thoughts—thoughts about God’s presence and good will toward others.

II. Hear Faith

“He that heareth ... and believeth ... hath everlasting life” ([John 5:24](#)).

- A. We listen to many voices—voices of newscasters (who relay to us mostly bad news), voices of criticism, doubts.

B. Faith is increased as we listen to the good, pure, and positive.

C. Listen to the voice of God. He speaks when we become quiet and receptive ([Ps. 46:10](#)).

III. See Faith

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” ([Heb. 12:2](#)).

A. Many have their eyes on temporal things—they desire to obtain houses, land, automobiles, money.

B. Christians must keep their eyes on Christ, they must be concerned with giving Him first place in their lives, and winning the lost.

IV. Talk Faith

“Talk ye of all his wondrous works” ([Ps. 105:2](#)).

A. Many women talk about fashions, styles, neighbors, friends.

B. Many men talk about the news, money, cars, houses, jobs.

C. All Christians should talk about the things of God—His salvation, love, peace, blessings.

V. Work Your Faith

“I will shew thee my faith by my works” ([James 2:18](#)).

A. Active faith is effective.

B. Your faith grows as you exercise it. Work your faith, then it works for you.

C. Jesus condemned the Pharisees when He said, “For they say and do not” ([Matt. 23:3](#)). He wants workers, not talkers.

VI. Walk By Faith

“We walk by faith, not by sight” ([2 Cor. 5:7](#)).

A. Walk by faith in daily living—in work, and in play.

B. Walk by faith in the hour of trial and temptation.

C. Walk by faith when the sun is shining.

D. Walking by faith increases our faith and brings God’s approval.

¹ Spray, R. E. (1984). *“How to ...” Sermon Outlines* (pp. 37–38). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Hope 10 minutes

We talked earlier about faith, “the substance of things hoped for”

There was a time when in

[Ephesians 2:12](#) that you were at that time apart from Christ, alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, not having hope, and without God in the world.

There are promises in this covenant with God through Jesus Christ. And these promises are the result of God's good character and nature for our good

[Romans 15:13](#) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope is future looking, expecting a positive outcome. Our hope is that we have eternal life with God. Our hope is that God will reward us for our righteous actions on the earth. Our hope is that God answers our prayer.

How to H-O-P-E in God

"Hope thou in God" ([Ps. 42:5](#)).

I. H-eritage

"Made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" ([Titus 3:7](#)).

A. Heritage—"that which is inherited; the lot, condition, or status into which one is born" (Webster).

B. Being justified by faith through Jesus Christ gives us the hope of eternal life, making us heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ ([Rom. 8:16–17](#)).

II. O-ptimism

"Happy is he ... whose hope is in the Lord his God" ([Ps. 146:5](#)).

A. Optimism—"an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and happenings, or anticipate the best possible outcome" (Webster).

B. Hope brings optimism and good cheer. Optimism looks for and expects the best ([Rom. 8:28](#)).

III. P-atience

"Remembering ... your ... patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" ([1 Thess. 1:3](#)).

A. Most Christians need more patience.

B. Patience of hope is developed through affliction, trial, and temptation—with the help of the Lord ([1 Peter 5:10](#)).

IV. E-ternal Life

"In hope of eternal life, which God ... promised ..." ([Titus 1:2](#)).

A. Hope means "happy expectation." The Christian has the hope, the "happy expectation," of eternal life.

B. We must set our affections on things above so we can claim the treasures laid up for us in heaven ([Col. 1:5](#)).¹

¹ Spray, R. E. (1984). *"How to ..." Sermon Outlines* (p. 36). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Love 10 minutes

Many have heard the two greatest commandments Jesus spoke about in

[Matthew 22:37–39](#) And he said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And the second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

[1 Corinthians 13:4–7](#) Love is patient, love is kind, love is not jealous, *it* does not boast, *it* does not become conceited, ⁵*it* does not behave dishonorably, *it* is not selfish, *it* does not become angry, *it* does not keep a record of wrongs, ⁶*it* does not rejoice at unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth, ⁷bears all *things*, believes all *things*, hopes all *things*, endures all *things*.

Love is an action as in the account of the good Samaritan. Love goes beyond those that can reward you for your actions.

God’s LOVE

“Charity never faileth” ([1 Cor. 13:8](#)).

I. L-ook for the Best in Others

“Love worketh no ill to his neighbor” ([Rom. 13:10](#)).

A. Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone has faults. There is also good in everyone. We usually find what we are looking for in people—good or bad.

B. Many look for the worst. They search for faults, building themselves up by tearing others down.

C. Love is a positive attitude. It reaches for the highest and the best.

II. O-ffer Christ’s Love to Others

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another” ([Rom. 13:8](#)).

A. Christ loved so much he laid down His life for the lost world ([1 John 4:10–11](#)).

B. Love for others gives the Christian assurance that he belongs to God and has eternal life ([1 John 3:14](#)).

C. Love for others should not only be in words but in deed and in truth ([1 John 3:17–18](#)).

III. V-isualize what Christ Can Do for Others

“Charity shall cover the multitude of sins” ([1 Peter 4:8](#)).

A. Love sees possibilities, hope, and help for all people through Christ.

B. Love knows that, by Christ’s power, every person can be a blessing.

C. Love acts on possibilities. It takes steps to win others to Christ by prayer, faith, good deeds, and witnessing.

IV. E-xemplify the Spirit of Christ to Others

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love” ([Rom. 12:10](#)).

A. Christ was kind, compassionate, and understanding.

B. Love emulates Christ. We are to manifest His Spirit each day.

C. Others will respond to the Spirit of Christ when they see the fruits of the Spirit in us ([Gal. 5:22–23](#)).

¹ Spray, R. E. (1984). *“How to ...” Sermon Outlines* (p. 70). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Close 5 minutes

Demonstrate the love of God

Keep yourself in that pace of faith and hope

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