



05/13/24

It's Monday morning, and I want your faith to soar like the eagle! I want you to be lifted up above the clouds so that you can see clearly, know perfectly, declare purposefully, and act properly! And this can happen if you'll put forth the effort to once and for all change your mind about "hope"!

I realize that it may be hard to do, but it's worth it because it will change your perspective about faith. I know that when we said yesterday that "hope" was one of the biggest problems that we have, it rubbed some people the wrong way. After all, we're encouraged to "hope". This idea of "hope", "considering something as possible", has a certain air of loftiness, and that's fine, but it's downright contrary to faith. Why? Because that is not in any way the definition of the Greek word in the New Testament that is translated "hope".

Look, I know we've touched on this before, but it's time to take it up a notch because it plays an important role with faith. These 2 "hopes" are opposites. Expectation helps to give traction to faith, locking it in, while considering that something is possible let's your faith kind of float around. Let's go back to the "anchor" that we talked about yesterday.

"Hope" is supposed to *anchor your soul*, and just considering that something you have conceived may be possible just don't get it! As I said, I've been aware of this for years, but I haven't realized until recently just how important it actually is. "Bible hope", *elpis* (noun) or *elpizo* (verb), is very clearly defined as "expectation" or "to expect something to happen". It's not wishing, or "hoping", it's expecting, and that's very different! When you're fully expecting that what you have believed because you have received will happen, it locks that faith in place! (You might as well get used to a bunch of exclamation marks this morning. It's just a carry-over from yesterday.) Back to the anchor!

Let's break down Heb 6:17. Here we see that our soul has an anchor that is, "**both sure and unshakable**". And the reason for that is because we have grabbed hold of "**the elpis, expectation, being set before us.**" (We talked yesterday about the Old Covenant imagery in this, but let's stay focused.) We have this *unshakable expectation* because God swore an oath, and He can't lie. Because of that, Jesus has executed a New Covenant with His own blood, (behind the veil), and has been installed as the High Priest of this Covenant down from the order of Melchizedek, on our behalf! So we *expect* all that He shows us, declares to us, reveals to us, conceives in us, to happen! OK, but how and what?

"For all that was written in the past that was *into* our instruction was written in order that through cheerful constancy and through the counsel of the Scriptures we might possess expectation." (Ro 15:4, enhanced version) "So faith out from the report, and the report through the word of God." (Ro 10:16, enhanced version) So that, **the *hupostasis*, the underlying foundation of things expected is based on the evidence of things not seen. (Heb 11:6) Now, think through this with me. What do you expect? What you have evidence of, right? Where did you get the evidence? From the Word of God, either written or spoken, right? What did that do? It formed a "substance" in you. What is the substance? Faith!**

But for "faith" to become "believing" it has to be expected!! Without expecting something to happen or become, it's just the picture in your mind. Yes, it's a substance, yes it's faith, but the expectation is what locks faith in place. It's the determining force that causes faith to *stay active*, and that doesn't happen if you just "consider it possible". It happens when you fully expect it! So quit "hoping" and start "expecting". Faith & Hope work together!

Thank God For His Word!

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