

HOLY SPIRIT: HOPE

“And now abides...hope...” (I Corinthians 13:13).

Hope precedes faith as an activity of the spirit. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for...” (Hebrews 11:1). It is impossible to have faith in something you won’t hope for. Hope is the first responder to truth in the spirit. Faith can’t arise without hope. An atheist will not believe in God until he or she pays attention to hope in the spirit. Hope is not pie-in-the-sky, but a response to intuition in our spirit. That is why every culture believes in a god of some sort. Hope will lead us to faith if it is nurtured by the Holy Spirit. Faith is impossible where hope is willfully extinguished. You won’t have faith in Christ, in Heaven, in eternal rewards without hope in the spirit. Hope is another word for confidence. It is a combination of expectation and desire. Hope comes from a primary word meaning to anticipate, usually with pleasure. It is applied to God, the resurrection, in the Scriptures, our calling, the gospel, salvation, eternal life, and more. Faith is built on hope, and faith builds hope. “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (I John 3:3). That is the hope of the spirit. The revelation of the Holy Spirit produces the reality of faith in us to live expecting to see Jesus and to be like Jesus. What we hope for we have faith in, and what we have faith in we will eventually see. Hope is spiritual sight that enables us to see the unseen.