

The Things We Hope For

- *Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen. Heb 11:1-2 NKJV*
- *Now faith is **assurance** of (things) hoped for, a **conviction** of things not seen. Heb 11:1 ASV*

- *From **substance** to **assurance***
- *From **evidence** to **conviction***
- Faith **begins** with substance and evidence
- Faith **ends** with assurance and conviction.
- Are we still at the sowing phase or have we reached the reaping and the harvest.

What Can / Do You See?

- If we are still sowing – we see evidence and proof. If we are reaping – We see enjoy the majestic vista of the unseen.
- *while **we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.** 2Cor 4:18*
- *For we **walk by faith, not by sight.** 2Cor 5:7*
- Where are we in this progression?
- Have we reached the maturity of our fathers?

What Did Our Fathers See?

- *These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*
Heb. 11:13-16

- Can / Do we see what they saw?
- Is this world our Home ... Just passing through?
- Do we seek a homeland or look back like Lot's wife?

These are Not Idle Questions

- The form the basis of how we have sanctified and set apart Christ in our hearts as Lord.
- *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 1Pet 3:15*
- If we don't see them we can't make a defense?
- If we don't have any reasons still sow but not reap
- If reasons just being learned we have substance and evidence but not assurance and conviction
- There are two purposes and goals.
- They make us effective in evangelism.
- They form the basis of our sacrifices and efforts.

Reasons – Assurance & Conviction

- Jesus endured the cross because of “*the joy that was set before Him*” Heb. 12:1-3
- Moses endured ill treatment with God’s people because he “*looked at the recompense of reward*” Heb. 11:24-26
- Paul suffered loss of all things, counted them rubbish to “*attain the resurrection of the dead*” Phil. 3:7-11
- The stronger the assurance and conviction the greater the sacrifices and the more zealous we become.
- When reasons are strong enough, any sacrifice is reasonable.
- “*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service*” Rom. 12:1

What is Our Hope?

- *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in **one hope of your calling**; Eph 4:4*
- *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, **so that you may know what is the hope of His calling... Eph 1:18***
- ***This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast** Heb 6:19 **and one which enters within the veil,***

Gratitude

- As we listen to the heavens declare the glory of God? Ps. 19:1-2
- *In the rustling grass I hear Him pass*
- *He speaks to me everywhere*
- Do we watch and see His everlasting power and divinity in the things that are made Rom. 1:20
- *Then sings my soul my savior God to thee*
- *How great Thou art How great Thou are*
- As we enjoy every good thing given and every perfect gift are we adding them to our “reasons?” Jas. 1:17
- From what He HAS DONE to WHAT HE WILL DO

Comfort and Security

- When God is “*for us, who can be against us?*”
With His infinite power and wisdom “*we know that all things work together for good*” Rom. 8:28, 31
- *He himself has said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake you.* Heb. 13:5
- Regardless of the sacrifices that must be made, having God watching over us makes it them reasonable.

Precious & Exceeding Great Promises

- When God “*granted to us His precious and exceeding great promises,*” He gave us another powerful 2Pet. 1:4
- Living “*in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began*” Titus 1:2
- *Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* 1Jn. 3:1-3

Even Under the Most Severe Trials

- *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 10:35-11:2*

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