

LIVING TRUTH

faith
hope
& *love*

MESSAGE GUIDE

MESSAGE GUIDE

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 1 – FAITH AGAINST THE ODDS

Hebrews 11:1-2, 13 & 35-36

1. Before delving into today's study let's briefly recap by reading and considering: 1 Corinthians 13:13. What are the three things that remain, and what, specifically are they?

2. Now please read and absorb all of *Hebrews Chapter 11*, as we consider the subject of **FAITH**. After reading and considering this chapter we have to ask ourselves; **then what is Faith?**

3. What do you suppose is the point of Hebrews Chapter 11?

4. We are going to look at 3 things in Hebrews 11 that are essential to living by faith. First of all take a look at the first part of **Hebrews 11:6**

5. We must believe that **GOD IS!**

6. What is one of the primary reasons why people turn away from God?

7. Read and consider **Hebrews 11:6b-38** and then verses 39 & 40

8. Now read and consider the last part of Hebrews 11:6

9. Now read and consider Hebrews 11:3

Final Thoughts

So what do we do?

2 Corinthians 5-7

“We live by faith – NOT by sight.”

We see beyond the *visible realities to an invisible reality*

Although Hebrews 11 has often been called ‘the great Faith chapter’ it is actually not about Faith, but it is about PERSEVERANCE.

Read and consider Hebrews 10:35-39

Do not lose confidence – You need to PERSEVERE.

Keep doing the will of God,
and you WILL receive what has been promised.

The examples of ‘faith’ given in Hebrews 11
are given to illustrate perseverance.

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 2 – BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-5

1. It would be good to recap 1 Corinthians 13:13

2. In our last study we looked at ‘Faith’; now we shall look at **HOPE**. This is one of the great virtues of Christian Experience; How would you define how this word ‘hope’ is used?

3. Why is ‘hope’ crucial to our well being?

4. Name some of the things that we place our hope in.

5. Read and consider 1 Peter 1:3-5

6. The Bible speaks of 'heaven' or 'the heavens' in 3 ways.
Read and consider Genesis 7:11 and 11:4.

7. Read and consider Genesis 15:5

8. Read and consider John 6:38

9. We actually don't know much about heaven, but let's take a quick look at some scriptures that will tell us 5 things about Heaven.

10. **1. It is a Place.**

Read and consider 1 Peter 1:4

11. **2. It is a Party** – that may seem to be a flippant word to us but... Read and consider Ephesians 1:18

12. **3. It is Permanent.**

Also from 1 Peter 1:4

13. **4. It is Perfect.**

Read and consider 1 Peter 1:5 and Jude verses 24 & 25

14. **5. The Process.**

Read and consider again 1 Peter 1:3-5

Final Thoughts

Hope does have optimism to it,
with an expectation, a promise, of better things.

In practical living,
'hope' orients our lives around a better future.
This is not to be escapist about the present,
but equips us better to live in the present
because there is a better future.

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 3 – ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1. 1. It would be good to recap again 1 Corinthians 13:13

2. God is not F _ _ _ _

God is not H _ _ _

3. Do you recall what the goal of the gospel is?
Read and consider John 13:34-35

4. Please read and consider Luke 6:32-35

5. So let us look first of all at:
1. Loving Activities – 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

6. **2. Loving Attitudes** – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

7. **3. Loving Aspirations** – 1 Corinthians 13:8-12

8. What are we warned about concerning Prophecies, Tongues and Knowledge?

9. So what are our aspirations in our Christian life?

Final Thoughts

Without Love –
all our spiritual gifts, all our ministries, are nothing.

Without Love –
we can preach, but it is just empty words.

Without Love –
we can be a musician, but it is just music.

Without Love –
we can be an usher, but we are just showing people around.

Without Love –
we can go on a Mission Team, but just be a tourist.

Without Love –
we can be on staff at a church, but it is just a job.

All is just **clanging cymbals** of noise that comes to **nothing**.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 1 – FAITH AGAINST THE ODDS

Hebrews 11:1-2, 13 & 35-36

1. 1. The 3 things that remain are:
 - i. **Faith** - which is **our attitude to God**
 - ii. **Hope** - which is **our attitude to the Future**
 - iii. **Love** - which is **our attitude towards Others**

Remember, these are not optional extras. Any 2 out of 3 will not do. It is the essential three-legged stool upon which Christian Experience sits.

2. There is an ambiguity about what Hebrews 11 says:

Faith is being **sure** of what we **hope** for.

Being **certain** of what we **do not see**.

There is a **broken line** between certainty and experience.

3. What do you suppose is the point of Hebrews Chapter 11?
Well, for the answer to that we need to look at **Hebrews 12:1-2a**

4. The first part of Hebrews 11:6 says this:
“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists.”

1. We have to believe that God exists.

5. Our problem is we tend to have faith FOR things, rather than simply faith IN God. True faith is in **God Himself**, irrespective of what He does or doesn't do.

6. People turn away from God in the face of disappointments because **their faith was in an outcome** that didn't happen.

Our faith is often placed in what we believe God will do, but what do we do when God does not do what we expect? We need to understand that God has remained God.

7. This is hard to understand, but God is God and He will always do what is right even though we do not understand it.

8. **2. "..... He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."**

It does NOT say:

- i. He is a rewarder of those who just want God for meeting their needs.
- ii. He is a rewarder of those who only pray when they are in need.

But He rewards those who earnestly, actively seek Him.

Our reward is that one day we will discover what that reward will be – but we are not seeking the reward We are seeking HIM.

9. And this introduces the third thing that is essential to living by faith. We must believe that: **3. God Brings Things Out Of Nothing.**

There is much that we cannot see. – it is invisible to us. We do not see the hand of God. We do not see His ways: and yet from the invisible will come the visible ... In our lives too!

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 2 – BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-5

1. 1. The 3 things that remain are:

- i. **Faith** - which is our **attitude to God**
- ii. **Hope** - which is our **attitude to the Future**
- iii. **Love** - which is our **attitude towards Others**

Remember, these are not optional extras. Any 2 out of 3 will not do. It is the essential three-legged stool upon which Christian Experience sits.

2. This ‘hope’ is not an **unsure optimism**, but rather a **confident expectation**.

3. Simply put: where there is no hope, there is no life.

4. We place our hope in: wealth, science, technology, human nature, marriage, politics, or any number of other things.
The Christian places ‘hope’ in God.

5. When the Word of God speaks of ‘The Hope’, **it is the ultimate end of this life and transference to another life, another place Heaven! One of the great hopes of the Christian is the hope of heaven.**

6. **a.** ‘The Heavens’ - The clouds and earth’s atmosphere.

7. **b.** Here the ‘Heaven’s’ are the sky, stars and the visible universe.

8. **c.** ‘Heaven’ also is the place where God lives.

Heaven is also the future home of all those who are in Christ.

The Gospel is not primarily about a place – it is about reconciling with God; but as we enter into that relationship with God it permeates both time and eternity.

Please read and consider 1 Thessalonians 5:10.

Heaven should not be dangled as a bribe to trust in Christ. If it were we would be more interested in Heaven than in Christ; but heaven IS part of the arrangements. It is a geographical location.

9. -

10. And here are some other scriptures that will help us to better understand what heaven will be like; **John 14:2-4**; **Matthew 22:30**; **Revelation 7:16-17**; **2 Corinthians 5:8**; and **Philippians 1:23**

11. Read and consider also Matthew 6:20

12. It is permanent for Eternity – and Eternity is ‘outside of time’.

13. -

14. And also read and consider John 3:3

Faith, Hope & Love Series

PART 3 – ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1. 1. The 3 things that remain are:

- i. **Faith** - which is our **attitude to God**
- ii. **Hope** - which is our **attitude to the Future**
- iii. **Love** - which is our **attitude towards Others**

Remember, these are not optional extras. Any 2 out of 3 will not do. It is the essential three-legged stool upon which Christian Experience sits.

2. God is not **Faith**

God is not **Hope**

But God **IS Love**. **LOVE is His actual nature; His very being.**

His nature of Love permeates and characterizes everything about Him.

3. The **'goal of the gospel'** is for His nature to be reproduced in us!

4. It is not a love that is conditioned by how it is reciprocated. It is AGAPE love, which says 'I love you whether you love me or not.'

5. All of the 'activities' mentioned in these verses are good and genuine, but if they are not applied in love and with love we are told **we do nothing, we are nothing, we gain nothing.**

For example: we can give very generously but it can actually not be an expression of love if our giving is selfishly motivated by our ego.

6. These are all the ‘attitudes of the heart’
Verses 1 – 3 basically said: Activities with no love = **Nothing**
Verses 4 – 8 a says: Love with no boasting or taking
of credit = **Powerful**

7. “Aspirations” are **what we look forward to.**

8. The ministry giftings of Prophecies will one day cease;
Tongues will be stilled; even Knowledge will pass away in
other words, they all have a set shelf life. They are here, but
then they are gone.

**But Love has no shelf life: it will never fail and it will never
pass away**

**The issue is not ‘what do our minds say about God and
people’. But ‘how do our hearts CONNECT with God and
with people.**

9. Do we aspire to: **Grow in Skill?** *It will pass away.*
Grow in Giftedness? *It will pass away.*
Grow in Knowledge *It will pass away.*

Or to Grow in Love – that will NOT pass away!

Read and consider 1 Corinthians 13: 11 and 12

**And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

faith hope & love

FAITH is our attitude and disposition towards *God*. **HOPE** is our attitude and disposition towards the *future*. **LOVE** is our attitude and disposition towards *others*.

And love without faith, faith without hope, hope without love is not a balance nor is it a functioning Christian life. “These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Charles Price in this series ‘*Faith, Hope and Love*’ encourages us to experience Christ by discovering that God loves us. He illustrates faith, hope and love as a three-legged stool on which all of Christian experience sits. If you break one of those legs, the stool will topple over.

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

—John 13:34 (NIV)



Charles Price, one of the most sought after Bible expositors in the world today, is blessed with an innate ability to present the deep truths of God’s word in a simple, practical and understandable manner. He is the former Principal of Capernwray Bible

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In this Message Guide:

- 1) **Faith Against the Odds**
(Hebrews 11:1-2, 13, 35-36)
- 2) **Born Again to a Living Hope**
(1 Peter 1:3-5)
- 3) **All You Need is Love**
(1 Corinthians 13:1-13)



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