



FAITH
HOPE
AND
LOVE

Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1 – 14:1

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit.



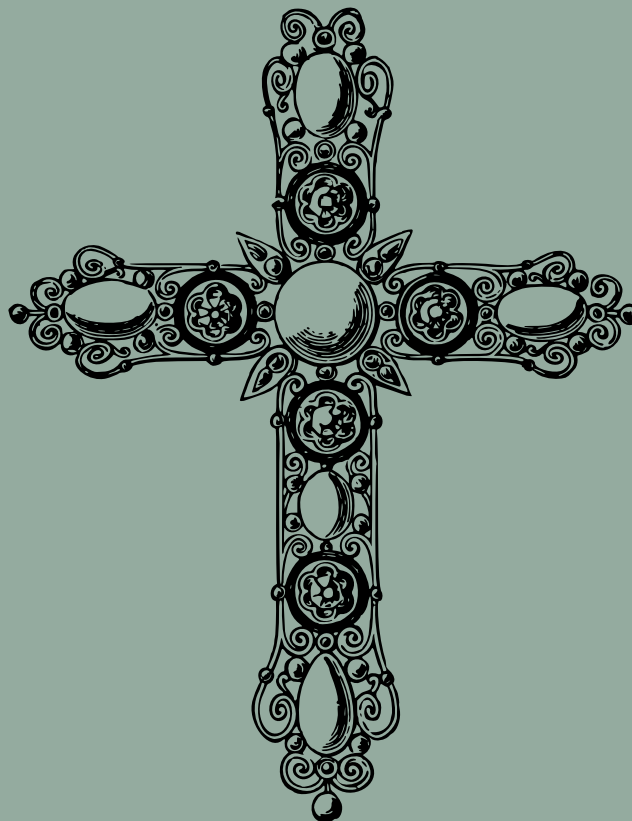
Faith – an Attitude of the Heart

Faith is always the starting point. The Bible says that without faith no one can come to God be able to please Him. Faith acknowledges that there is God and that He rewards those who seek Him. This is an attitude of seeking Him in all the small and big things in life.

Faith is capable of seeing God. Faith is trust in an omnipotent, wise, holy, and loving God. It is a choice to trust God's love and wisdom. Faith is an acknowledgment of one's own limitation and inability, the need for forgiveness, redemption, and healing. Faith gives us complete assurance and certainty that God is with us on our side and works to redeem our pains and bring good and blessing in our lives.

The cross has not accidentally become a symbol of faith. He points to Christ and symbolizes the life of faith in which we live by God's power and do what is good and acceptable to God.

Let us hear the voice of faith. She always says: "God has already solved the problem and things have already worked out (even before they do in actual experience). He has already provided everything for me and my life here on this earth as well as for eternity. I have God's provision for every single day of my life."

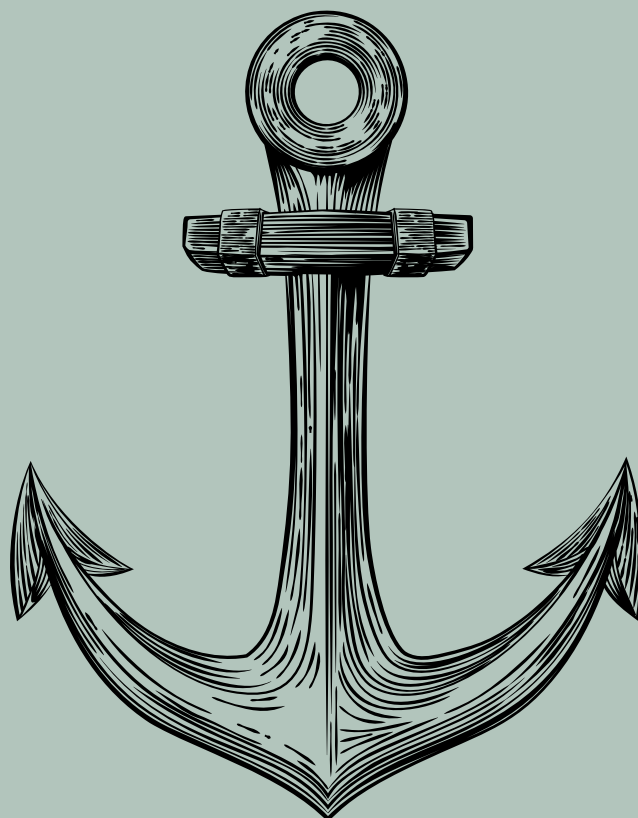


Hope – the Anchor for the Soul

Faith can not function properly without its sister – the hope. Faith alone is not enough. We must add the expectation of good, and the confidence that we will experience the goodness of God in our lives. It is not accidental that hope is likened in the Bible to a firm and secure anchor for the soul that penetrates behind the curtain, into the invisible and eternal. (Hebrews 6:19).

The basis and the guarantee of our hope is God Himself, who is not changing. We can have full hope regarding all God's words and promises. His intentions and words are immutable and permanent. No matter how our feelings and circumstances change, God's Word stands unshakable. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35)

Here's how the voice of hope sounds: "I know things will work out, I just do not know how and when. The question about How and When I leave to God. I am convinced everything will have a good end. I can trust God and His love for me. Everything that happens to me, the worst and the most painful, is not in vain, but God will make it work for my good. "



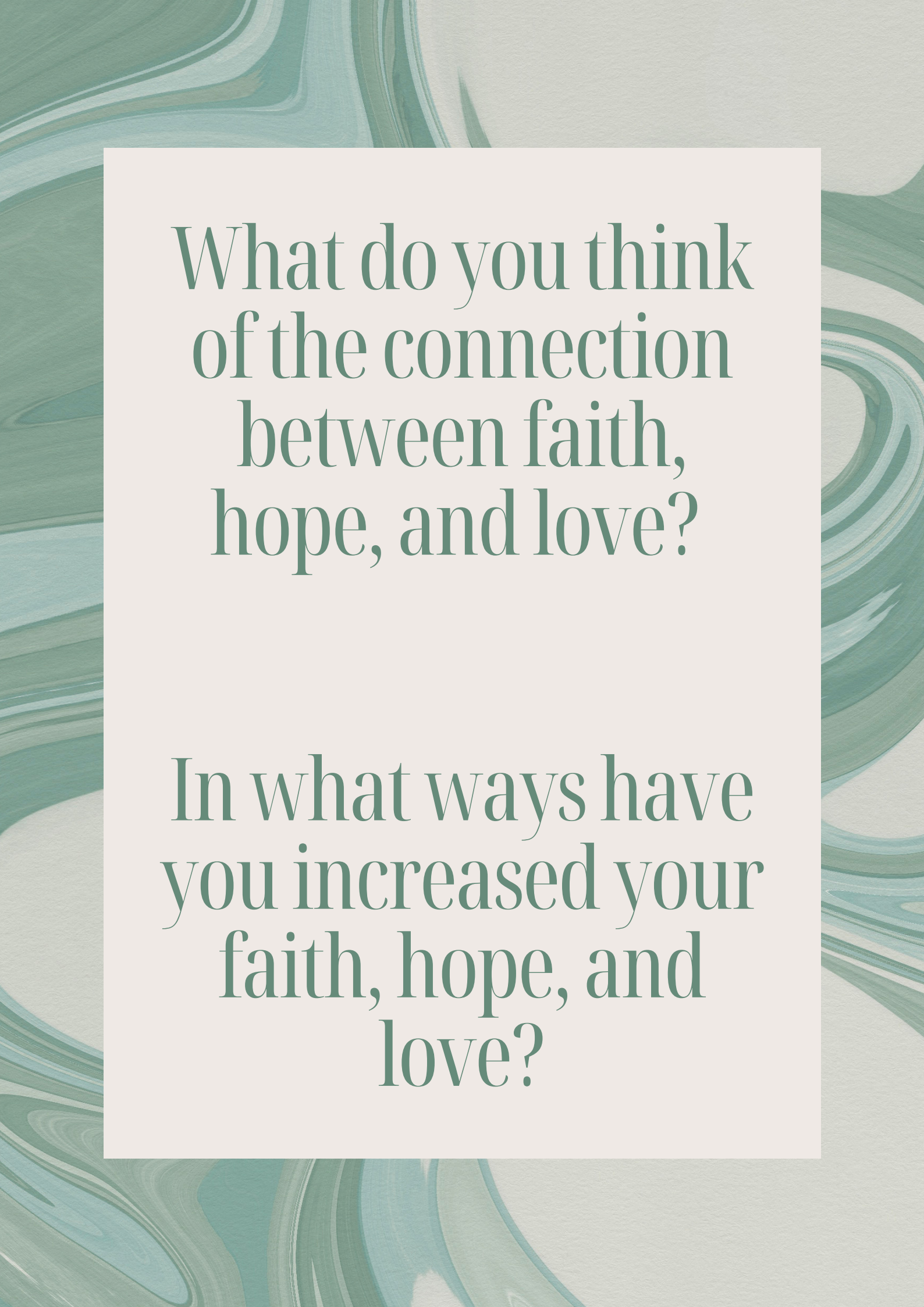
Love – the Greatest of All

Why is love the greatest of all? The answer is that when faith and hope fail and fall away, love remains. We need faith and hope on this earth. But we will not need them in eternity. At the time of the complete restoration, when God will make everything new and eliminate death and suffering, we will face Him face-to-face.

We will not need faith because we will see things as they are. We will not need hope, because everything is already done. But God's love, as well as our love for Him and for all people who we carry in our hearts, remain forever. Love remains with us in eternity. It is the meaning and the center of everything.

Here is what love says: "Even if things don't work out (in actual experience), nothing can separate me from the love God has for me. And nothing can change the love I have for Him."





What do you think
of the connection
between faith,
hope, and love?

In what ways have
you increased your
faith, hope, and
love?