



Today's Lesson

**Living in Process:
Hope or Faith, Which?**

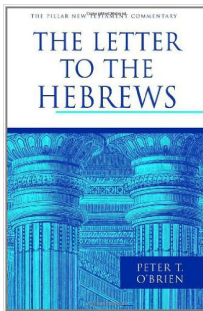
Power Point notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Today is the first Sunday of Advent where in many Christian churches they are celebrating the activity of "Hope." In Unity we celebrate the activity of "Faith." Is there a difference or is it a matter of semantics?

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



According to the writer of Hebrews faith and hope tend to go together as an activity.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1)

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Merriam-Webster defines hope as:

1. to cherish a desire with anticipation;
2. to desire with expectation of obtainment;
3. to expect with confidence as in trust.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Merriam-Webster defines faith as:

1. belief and trust in and loyalty to God;
2. belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion;
3. firm belief in something for which there is no proof.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Unity co-founder, Charles Fillmore had this to say about the idea of hope and faith:

Hope is the expectation of good in the future. It is a quality of sense mind because it is subject to time.

Faith is the certain knowledge that our good is ours right now. It is of God; it goes beyond time and space.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Unity co-founder, Charles Fillmore had this to say about the idea of an active faith:

Faith is the perceiving power of the mind linked with the power to shape substance; a deep inner knowing that that which is sought is already ours for the taking.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Jesus put it this way: *“According to your faith be it done unto you.”* Matt 9:22

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

The Book of Job is part of the wisdom literature found in the Old Testament and deals with the activity of faith. Not hoping things will turn around for the better, but knowing they will!

From a metaphysical point of view it also deals with the activity of the Law of Mind action:

“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.” Job 3:25

“You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you.” Job 22:28

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



Dr. H. Emily Cady had this to say about faith in her book, Lessons in Truth:

Faith does not depend on physical facts, or on the evidence of the senses, because it is born of intuition, or the Spirit of truth ever living at the center of our being.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?



I think this is what Jesus was trying to teach when he said, *“Your faith has made you whole; trust God that your needs will be met; ask as if you have already received!”*

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

Activating faith in our lives can take on many different forms such as:

1. Having a faith that understands and knows that God as principle and creative life force is the source of all our good.
2. Having faith in the spiritual working activity of the laws that govern the natural and spiritual realms in which we live and move and have our being.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

3. Having faith that trusts in a power higher than ourselves so that no matter what is going on around us we can affirm that all things are possible with God.
4. Having faith and trust in one's own purpose and place in the greater outworking of one's spiritual journey as a child of God.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

5. Having a faith that embraces the idea that as a child of God we can do the works Jesus did and greater works than those; as we hold to the truth that all things are possible through prayer, asking and believing we have already received that which we have faith in.
6. Having a faith that does not compare, analyze, or draw conclusions based on appearances.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

7. Having a faith that functions from Principle (God) and is based on Truth (Christ within) with a total understanding of the Law of Mind Action (Spirit); so that we can affirm this holiday season:
Through the rebirth of the Christ in me, I am filled with renewed faith.

Living in Process: Hope or Faith, Which?

As we continue our faith journey, we do so with this prayer:

God is my help in every need;
God does my every hunger feed;
God walks beside me, guides my way;
Through every moment of the day.