



Daily Verse and Comment

1 Corinthians 13:13

(13) And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

New King James Version

Here, Paul lists hope as one of the "big three" virtues of Christianity. Whereas [faith](#) is the foundation on which the other two stand, and [love](#) is the object because it enables us to communicate, interact properly, and unite, hope is the quality that motivates, providing energy by keeping us in anticipation of greater and better things to come.

Hope, as used in Scripture, is not difficult to define. It appears as both a noun and verb, and conveys the absolute certainty of future good. [1 Corinthians 13:13](#) lists it with those things that remain, abide, or continue. In other words, even in the [Kingdom of God](#), we will always be eagerly looking forward to some blessing or accomplishment as age upon age unfolds before us. This will occur because God's revelation never ends, as He Himself is an inexhaustible resource.

[Ephesians 2:12](#) adds another dimension to Christian hope. ". . . that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without [God in the world](#)." Our hope is uniquely Christian because no other religion, no other way of life, can give its adherents a *certain* hope. Why? First, even though other religions may be moral in their teachings, they speak only from man's experiences. Second, their god is not living the life of God. Third, they have no expectation of the Messiah and all it implies.

The Bible leaves no doubt that our hope is a direct result of God's calling: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling" ([Ephesians 4:4](#)). Paul clearly links our hope with our calling,

which is God's summons into His presence so that we may have a relationship with Him. In the context of the first paragraph of Ephesians 4, the implication is that this hope is a factor that unites us into one body. Our calling is an end to pessimism, negativity, and despair and the beginning of a confident, bright, and optimistic life filled with endless possibilities because this unique hope gives positive expectancy to life here and now and beyond the grave as well.

All men have hope occasionally, and some frequently seem hopeful. Many peoples' hope changes as often as the weather. The frequent fluctuations of the stock market indices often indicate investors' up-and-down confidence and hope about the future. Yet, our hope can be taken to higher level altogether because Christians can have *continuous* hope. Our hope is not a "mere flash in the pan."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Elements of Motivation \(Part Three\): Hope](#)

Related Topics:

[Expectation](#)

[Faith](#)

[God's Calling](#)

[Hope](#)

[Hope as Motivation](#)

[Hope, Continuous](#)

[Love](#)

[Positive Attitude](#)

[Positive Expectancy](#)

[Relationship with God](#)

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