



On eagles wings: Our recovery from Coronavirus



Faith and Hope

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Faith definition from the dictionary is: "Confident belief in the truth, value or trustworthiness of a person, an idea, a thing, or a spiritual power"

What is faith?

**We have faith in
the present
moment**

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

- *I left the concept of faith to the last one in our virtues journey, because faith is tied to love, to hunger for righteousness, and to all the theological beatitudes of virtues.*
- *It is not possible to believe in love if we don't show faith in our present actions.*
- *Apostle Paul defines faith in Hebrews 11:1 as "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". Paul ties the knot between faith and hope in this versicle.*
- *Kincaid and Peccorino (2005) have defined faith as: "The belief which expresses confidence in the truth, value or veracity on something or someone, but it is characterized by an absence of evidence, or verifiable empirical justification or logical proof".*
- *Faith is an expression of CURRENT state of affairs. It exists in the PRESENT MOMENT OF TIME.*
- *Faith is necessary for hope to happen, but faith alone is not sufficient for hope.*

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Hope according to the dictionary is "To have confidence or trust for a wish for something with expectation of its fulfillment". "

What is hope?

We possess hope when we anticipate a wish come true in the future.



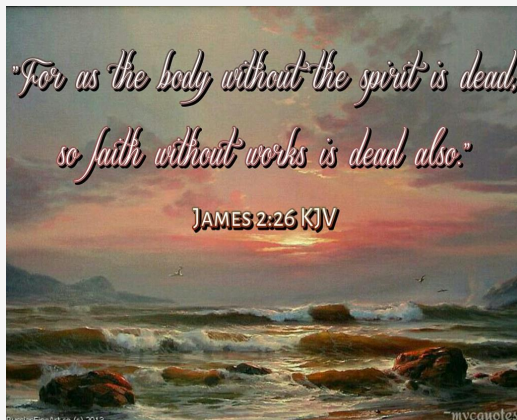
- *Hope is to have faith in a desire that we expect to happen. So hope only happens when we are longing for something or someone to take place.*
- *Hope happens when we expect, when we look forward to the future.*
- *Hope is the confident expectation in the achievement of a desired state of affairs.*
- *We have hope when we anticipate a fulfillment of intention.*
- *"I have faith in the present state of affairs, but I hold hope in the desired future condition of affairs".*
- *The reason why hope is so important in our "virtues" list: Hope is fundamental for our drive to revive or resurrect or transform our future.*
- *For hope to function in any future to happen, we first need to work hard to heal the past in our present, so we can trigger "hopeful" hope for the future.*

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Hope and faith are tangled in between, but as a two steps verification process: Faith has to occur as the first step in the present, and hope is the second step to anticipate the fullfilment of our wish to happen in the future.

Hope and Faith



- Faith and Hope in God are the fountain of true love and compassion.
- *Usually we have faith in "tangible things", but we forget the "spiritual things".*
- Our affirmation of faith must begin with God, Jesus-Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible (scriptures) and the church.
- *In a world of despairing necessities and troubles, that we have inherited from thousands of years of "imperialism and unfair kingdoms from our past", it is crucial to believe that humans are evolving and leaving this past behind. Democracies with balanced economic systems are society institutions that are leaving this past behind.*
- To build beautiful God's systems takes centuries: but we can help our children to have faith and hope. Starting with affirmation of faith to our babies, by role modeling.
- *The secret of living loved by God has to be introduced by "role model" teaching the virtue of "faith" to petit enfants. Kids learn to have faith and hope by observing adults faith and hope in actions.*

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Faith has been broken because democracies have started to give-up their boundaries.

Broken faithful

Where broken exist, the good news is that Jesus came to them directly



- *When global supply value chains empower hegemonic economic systems, that do not fix the most crucial problems of our societies: violence, discrimination, racism, lack of sustainable and environmental business models, exorbitant inequalities between the rich and the poor, modern slavery and corruption of leadership; how to have faith? How to act on hope?*
- *The answer: By remembering Jesus Christ experience on earth.*
- *People who have nothing were the priority for Jesus-Christ. Jesus did not identified with the Sadducees, neither the Pharisees, nor the Essenes or the Zealots who wanted to reclaim freedom by force, arms, struggles or terrorism.*
- *Jesus taught us to have Faith and Hope through his actions and virtues: the core of Christianity. Christ's Incarnation took place among the poor, between people without any political power, nor religious authority, people outside of the social hierarchies. Christ as the incarnation of God happened outside of power, money and the existing religions of Jesus times.*
- *If the son of God came to the broken to offer them faith and hope through his own role modeling or example... we already have everything to begin our journey.*

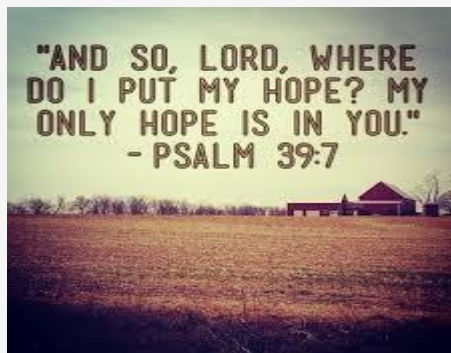
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We can't be Christians without integrating our faith, hope and economic activities. To witness God's purpose in every word and deed is challenging.

Living with Faith and Hope

Living with Faith and Hope means to expand our faith and hope to the faithless and the hopeless.



- *Those who don't believe in Christ won't accept Jesus as the son of God, unless they SEE and FEEL Christians acting with love as Jesus did.*
- *In a world full of Christians who behave as "non-believers", who don't show Christ virtues in their actions, the mission of evangelization needs a transforming and radical challenge.*
- *Non-Christian people (Jews, Muslims and other religions) won't be able to follow Christ, if we, Christians continue acting without virtues, without faith and hope in all areas of life (family, community, society, work). We as Christians must transform ourselves first, then our communities and then our economic-political systems.*
- *Living with faith and hope requires that **we begin an evangelism from inside out**: "It is a commitment to constantly challenge us and shape us into people who reflect Jesus in our actions, words and attitudes, at the same time that we help those who are marginalized by helping them to heal, as much as Jesus did with those that he visited 2000 years ago."*

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Each of us has a mission on earth: to follow the role model of Jesus Christ. Our actions in motion “walk the talk” to impress non-christians to believe in Christ.

***Living with
Hope and
Faith***

HOPE IS
being able
TO SEE THAT THERE
is light
DESPITE ALL
the darkness.

- The poor and marginalized people were Jesus-Christ priority. Nevertheless Jesus-Christ was still open to impact the lives of the rich, the public officers, and even the Roman Empire representatives. Jesus came to save us all.
- After the pandemic, there are going to be more than 100 Million of new extreme poor in the planet (World Bank numbers), which will face the same equivalent despair than the existing marginalized people that Jesus visited 2000 years ago.
- For those Christian believers who have more than what they need for a decent living (High middle-class Income and above), integrating their faith and hope in their economic activities is a requirement for solidarity towards the most in need.
- Living with hope and faith means to help others to have hope and faith. Means a faith in action: to fix all the troubles that our current economic business models are creating.
- Jesus teachings must be followed, not just at the charity level, but repairing and improving democracies to overpass the injustice that our business and economics models still need mending.

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Hope and faith are theological virtues that have been studied for centuries. University Divinity Schools of several religions have dedicated thousands of pages to understand them. Faith exists in the present. Hope is always for the future.

