

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
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## *Faith, Hope and Charity*

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity”  
(I Corin. 13:13)

*The beloved apostle penned these words admonishing the Church of these blessed attributes that accompany the salvation experience in time. I say “in time” as he indicates “NOW” these things abideth. I am persuaded that every child of God born of the Spirit has this fruit evident in their lives as evidence of the work of grace upon the heart and soul.*

*FAITH: “Now faith is the substance of things hope for, and the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1). It appears that faith and hope are inseparable, as faith is the substance of hope, therefore, if there is no hope, then faith is not evident.*

*In the heir of grace, faith is a ‘fruit’ of the Spirit of God, it is the “faith of Christ” that we have been given that causes one to lay hold upon the scriptural fact that God is who he says he is, and the rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Faith is NOT a work of the creature, as the creature by nature is born deficient of faith and is begotten DEAD in trespasses and sin. The apostle Paul expressed “now abideth” faith in those that be of God, born of his Spirit. This faith is experiential in its operation and given by measure and proportion as it pleases our God.*

*Knowing that this faith is the “faith of Christ,” as he is the Author and Finisher of our faith. The apostle further stated, “the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the “faith of the Son of God”, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gala. 2:20). I hear often, and even was guilty at one time in my walk of exhorting folks to “exercise” THEIR FAITH and believe in Christ, being ignorant as a young evangelical zealot.*

*To be revealed that faith is the gift of God, and NOT of works least any man can boast brings great delight in the heart and soul of the heir of grace. Knowing that we had NOTHING to do with causing faith, but was blessed to have it by the divine operation of free and sovereign grace.*

*To read of the patriarchs of the FAITH in Hebrews chapter eleven, gives us great consolation that as those of days past persevered by this precious fruit of FAITH, that we as well shall be blessed to press on as FAITH provides that supernatural spiritual vision of that heavenly city which God has prepared for them that love him.*

*HOPE: Is the spiritual vehicle that accompanies FAITH and causes one to believe in that which they have not seen with the natural physical eye. For if we have see , then it is no longer HOPE, I have not seen Christ or his heavenly realm, yet I believe that such Saviour exist and has sought me and caused me to believe in his rich and free salvation. This I have questioned over time, “Why do I believe the Bible is the Word of God?” And, that Christ has redeemed such a sinner as I? Then HOPE raises it’s sweet head and says, “Can you dear one believe anything less”? Why is it that (especially Primitive Baptist)” will travel the furthest, be among the least, yet come away with the most?” There is NO natural logic in folks traveling all over the country (world) to meet with a handful of people which has NO appearance whatsoever to the desires of the natural man? Who sing out of an old hymn book without notes, whose meeting houses look like historical monuments, sitting on old hard oak pews, and listening to a preacher man that can butcher the King’s English? Yet, in all this, folks come away refreshed, blessed, joyful, encouraged, in the truth of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?*

*We meet, sing, pray and exhort one another because we have been blessed with HOPE! HOPE that is based upon SUBSTANCE through FAITH that glorious gift of God’s irresistible grace bestowed upon undeserving sinners.*

*CHARITY: Love, adoration, compassion, sacrificial concern. Why is it that the apostle says, “the GREATEST of these is CHARITY?” I am convinced that although a professing believer say they have FAITH, and HOPE and yet there is NO CHARITY evident in the life of the professor, their profession is as the apostle says, “a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal” (I Corin. 13:1). Otherwise, it is NOT in the TALK it is in the evidenced WALK that manifest the genuine fruit of the Spirit.*

*Many can talk a good religious conversation, yet the proof of their profession will be manifest in their “CHARITY” towards others of like precious faith. As well as being patient towards ALL men. Genuine LOVE that is evidence of the fruit of the Spirit cannot be counterfeited nor hidden. This God sent CHARITY suffereth long, is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. This CHARITY doeth not cause one to behave unseemly, seeketh not her own, not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in evil, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, and NEVER fails ( I Corin. 13:4-8).*

*As I read this list of attributes which emulate from this FRUIT of the Spirit, I find myself abased. I find myself a failure, as I throw my poor soul at the feet of my beloved Master, our Lord Jesus Christ, pleading that I might be found forgiven for my negligence, and that grace may be granted in measure to walk according to his divine admonitions.*

*I do not want to merely give "lip service" when I say I love a brother; I want to prove it by divine unction for which I pray. God help us to love each other with that SAME love that Christ evidenced for us on that old rugged tree where he died for sinners like you and me. I have NO love or CHARITY of my own, for my charity loves me: Therefore, I need CHARITY from a divine source, and that must be from above from the Spirit of our Almighty Father, for Christ's sake.*

*Some pondering thoughts.....*

*October 15, 2008*