



# Faith, Hope, and Strength

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There are many key terms and concepts in Scripture like faith, hope, love, joy, grace, peace, and others that we come across as we read our Bibles, but often these are just vague concepts for many people. My discussion with you today focuses on faith, hope, and strength and I ask if I may provide the context of the biblical explanations of these terms.

## Discussion Talking Points...

- I. Prayer – pray without ceasing
- II. Demonstrating Faith by speaking and positive actions
- III. Illustrating Hope in your life and that of others in your community
- IV. Conveying words and actions of Strength

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As we begin, may I outline my discussion talking points again for you? In my country, which is the United States of America, most people begin their days with a cup of coffee. Therefore, as we proceed through this PowerPoint presentation, it carries a hot beverage sharing theme to set the tone for our chat on Faith, Hope, and Strength.

In other countries, the hot beverage maybe tea, hot chocolate, or some other hot beverage. Regardless of your cultural choice, the first of my talking points encourages the unceasing need for prayer, whether it be in a formal form, as a morning or evening devotion, or inconspicuously whispered prayer throughout the day. u are praying without ceasing.

Secondly, today, may I also speak with you about the demonstration of faith. Making positive plans and speaking positive action.

Next, we move on to manifesting that positive action in our lives and that of others.

Lastly, we will look at ways that positive conveyance of words can be demonstrated to reflect strength and support.



## Pray without ceasing...

Begin with gratitude. Psalm 100:4 notes, "enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Get real. Prayer is not still, nor does it consist of a formal language, pray from your heart and be genuine...

Incorporate prayer into everyday chores. ...

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The pictures on this slide each look appealing. We are fortunate to be in a land where we can enjoy a refreshing cake or biscuit, along with a hot refreshing beverage with a friend, family member, or colleague. May I encourage you to also begin the day with prayer? Regardless of your faith, devotional morning prayer is inspiring, helps to guide you through your day-to-day tasks.

Today, the world is encapsulated with the Ukraine and Russia conflict. Tomorrow, it may be yet another conflict, dire weather, or yet another adverse manmade situation. Regardless of the circumstance, prayer has a vital role in self-sustainment, wellness, hope, and strength. May I encourage you to pray throughout the day for all things whether they be good or bad? In essence, pray without ceasing. For example, in our conversations, pray about what you are going to say 'before' the words are brought forth. In our actions, pray about what you are going to do, how you will do them, and the ramifications 'before' actions are taken. Speak in love to your family, friends, and colleagues. Incorporate prayer into every aspect of your life and daily chores.

# Hope

The general consensus from most dictionary definitions is that hope is a feeling of expectation, a desire or wish for a certain thing to happen.

Hope (Bible) - A biblical definition of hope takes it one step further. My biblical translations infer, 'Hope is an expectation with certainty that God will do what he has said'.

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The modern idea of hope is “to wish for, to expect, but without certainty of the fulfilment; to desire very much, but with no real assurance of getting your desire.” In the Bible, hope is never a static or passive thing. It is dynamic, active, directive and life-sustaining.

In Scripture, according to the Hebrew and Greek words translated by the word “hope” and according to the biblical usage, hope is an indication of certainty. “Hope” in Scripture means “a strong and confident expectation.” Though archaic today in modern terms, hope is akin to trust and a confident expectation.

Hope may refer to the *activity* of hoping, or to the *object* hoped for—the content of one’s hope. By its very nature, hope stresses two things: (a) futurity, and (b) invisibility. It deals with things we can’t see or haven’t received or both .



Strength...

‘The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing’.

By Walt Disney

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As we talk about Strength, I would like to reflect upon Walt Disney, who is the founder of the mega international Disney industry. His famous quote is used in many different scenarios around the world, and I think it provides a good correlation to strength. One famous quote he used in business was ‘The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.’

# Demonstrate Strength in...

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## Mind

- Occupy your mind with things that are positive
- Occupy your mind with things that are productive
- Occupy your mind with people, places, and things that build good citizenship in your community, with your family, and in the workplace

## Body

- Engage your body in healthy physical activity
- Engage your body in healthy habits and behaviors
- Engage your body in ways that support good citizenship in your community, with your family, and in the workplace

## Character

- Demonstrate the characteristics of a person of high integrity
- Demonstrate the characteristics of a person that fulfills commitments
- Demonstrate the characteristics of a person positively impacting their community, family, and workplace

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# Summary

**Hope** affects what we do with our lives - our talents, time, treasures.

**Faith** can be linked to the belief and substance of things unseen.

**Strength** illustrates our putting hope and faith into action.

It is my hope that this virtual discussion has encouraged your faith and strength.

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# Thank You

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