



GOSPEL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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A MINISTRY OF GRACE CHAPEL

For Families

THE ONLY THREE THINGS THAT LAST FOREVER

Start with prayer, then ask...



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Now that we have learned all about faith, hope, and love, how do you think these three things are connected?



READ TOGETHER: Psalm 33:16–22



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why does this psalm say we can't put our hope and trust in armies or horses or our own strength?



DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why is it a joyful thing to wait for the Lord?

Psalm 33 rejoices in the faith, hope, and love that only come from the Lord. It says:

*"We wait in **hope** for the Lord . . .
for we **trust** in His holy name . . .
May your unfailing **love** be with us, Lord,
even as we put our **hope** in you" – Psalm 33:20–22*

DIGGING DEEPER

There are many Scriptures like this one where faith, hope, and love are linked together. FAITH, HOPE and LOVE are the three things that are the basis of our walk with Jesus. We walk by faith because we have hope in the promises of God, because of His great love for us. Though the greatest of these is love, you really can't have any of these three without the others. Another place where we see these three things together is in Paul's letter to the Romans:

*"Having been justified by **faith** . . . we exult in the **hope** of the glory of God . . . and **hope** does not disappoint because the **love** of God has been poured within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" – Romans 5:1–5*

In this passage, Paul also describes how these three things are linked together. You can't have faith without hope or hope without faith and love binds it all together. But do you know what comes between those verses, where those three little periods are? [Show them... look closely] When you put three little periods together like that in a quote from the Bible or any other book, it means you skipped over a part of it.

What? You skipped over part of the Bible?! Sometimes we do that because a quote is too long, and we just want to hit the highlights of it. Here, we skipped over this one part on purpose, for effect. So let's go find out what is supposed to be there in the middle.

Paul is writing all about faith, hope, and love, and he says they are exulting in them, rejoicing in them. But right there in the middle of all of that, Paul says something that can be pretty surprising if you don't understand where faith, hope, and love come from and how they work together. Let's go back and read together:

*"We rejoice in **hope** of the glory of God.
Not only that, but we rejoice in our **SUFFERING** . . ." – Romans 5:2b–3*

Whoa. Suffering? What? I thought we were rejoicing in the faith, hope, and love that come from God here! Where does suffering come into that? God, are you saying you want me to be happy about my suffering? No, God doesn't tell us to just put on a happy face and act like everything is okay when it's not. Jesus didn't do that. Jesus cried when He got sad. He even got angry and drove the moneychangers out of the temple.

APPLY IT TO LIFE

When we read the Psalms, we see that God wants us to be honest with Him about our feelings, to pour out every emotion to Him in prayer. But to end all our prayers in hope and trust and love, like Psalm 33 does. We may not understand what's going on, and we may be hurting, but we choose to trust that God has a plan, that He is good, and that He loves us. Paul isn't telling us to just put on a happy face and get over it. He's telling us we can rejoice even in our suffering because of what happens through it:

*"**Suffering** produces **endurance**,
endurance produces **character**,
and character produces **hope** . . ." – Romans 5:3–4*

Paul isn't telling us to rejoice about our sufferings, but to rejoice in our suffering, because God will always use it for good (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). God uses suffering to grow faith, hope, and love in us. Most grown-ups will tell you that it was in the hardest times in their lives that they grew the most spiritually. This is the promise God has for us in this difficult time. God doesn't ever make bad things happen to us. God cannot do evil because He is only good (James 1:13; 1 John 1:5). But God always takes the bad things that happen to us and makes good out of them (Romans 8:28).



PARENT STORY:

Describe a time when something bad happened to you and God worked it out for your good and grew you spiritually through it.



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Make homemade cards with the theme of faith, hope, and love for family, friends, or people in a nursing home or the hospital. If you can't physically send them because of germs or distancing, take a picture and email or text them to encourage people that they can have faith and hope because God loves them.

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

Dear God, thank you for growing your faith, hope, and love in us. Thank you for your incredible ability to take the bad things in our lives and work them out for our good. Please be with all of those around the world who are suffering right now and show them your love. In Jesus's name, Amen.

**MEMORIZE TOGETHER:**

"May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you" – Psalm 33:22