

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us: *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* (NAS)

Think about it; without hope, faith has no target for our Lord’s Spiritual power to pursue. So, do you think that might be why a few verses later we are reminded in verse 11:6 that faith’s mission needs hope? *“Without faith it is impossible to please God. Those who come to God must believe He rewards those who seek Him.”*

Being created in God’s image (Genesis 1:26), but born after the fall, (*The tree of knowledge of good and evil*) described in Genesis 2 & 3, we wrestle, to some degree, with hope and desire along with passions and purposes that are all built into us.

As we mentor and disciple those to whom our Lord places in our path, we may use other words too, like “dream” or “vision” to explain or to amplify the meaning and importance of that essential hope we must all possess to initiate the purpose of faith.

So, let’s remember, our faith needs an assignment to pursue, call it hope, desire, or vision. These are dream seeds that must be nourished by spiritual assurance to take them beyond just being wishful thoughts.

Now a wish may be a wonderful beginning of a life long purpose stimulated by a seed from our Lord’s wisdom and counsel. Always remember this though, Satan also plants weed seeds in our garden of dreams. Instant gratification may be a very destructive distraction that will take us away from our Lord’s lifelong purpose.

We’re all born with certain natural talents and skill potential. They become who we are to fill our specific purposes in society. Then when we receive our Lord’s Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts will begin to blossom and, hopefully, become apparent to us. Natural talents and skills will, at times, be enhanced by our Spiritual gifts. Our Spiritual gifts will always complement our talents and skills.

Sometimes others will observe our talents, skills and gifts before we do. Those who might see them early will usually possess a special Spiritual gift of discernment.

If a person pursues life for an extended period of time without discovering purpose driven natural talents, skills and gifts, fear motivated depression may follow. This is biblical sin. We must help those with whom we influence. Remember, it’s, perhaps, time to once again remind ourselves, all sin begins with fear. Paul reminds us in the fourteenth chapter of Romans that anything not inspired by our faith becomes sin and 1st John 1:10 tells us, if we say we don’t sin we’re calling God a liar!!!

Hope and desire that finds life fulfilling purposes is always rooted in serving others. This will produce joy. If hope’s only purpose is maintaining and surviving, the search will never end. A resulting fear driven depression will prevail even if the efforts provide material wealth and prosperity. Joy and happiness are not the same.

Read *“Joy - Our Foundational Purpose”* on: www.skipelmore.com

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