

**“Let’s Be Like Jesus  
Faith, Hope, and Charity”  
By Tom Hanson  
Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Acts 11:26 ... the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

**NEWS FLASH: GOD WINS!  
STAY WITH GOD AND BE A WINNER! JOIN GOD AND BE A WINNER!**

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity ...

A. Faith—faith means firmness, security, stability, conviction. Commitment; like a marriage vow commitment—“...for better or for worse, ‘til death do us part.” We, as Christians, make a commitment to God for life everlasting. I want to cleave to Christ. It takes a whole lot of pressure to make a diamond, but diamonds are valuable, in part because they are so rare. They aren’t just jewelry, either; there are many industrial uses for diamonds. The pressure for us is tribulation, but there is no discharge in that war. There is a hell to shun, and a lake of fire that we can be thrown into, but there is firmness and security in Christ. Job had to correct his wife once; he told her that she spoke “as one of the foolish women speaketh.” But she didn’t walk away from him.

Romans 10:17 ...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Amos 8:11 ...I will send a famine in the land...of hearing the words of the LORD.

There is a famine of faith in the land because there is a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. We need to be caring; the Word is alive in your life. Sunday schools everywhere teach basic truths—the Old Testament Bible stories. People all around us have been taught these things, but they may need a nudge. People’s faith is drying up, but just a few words from us can change that. The best advertising is word of mouth.

B. Grace. Grace means favor.

Ephesians 2:8 ...by grace are ye saved through faith...

James 2:14-24 ...by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

We need to prove our ministry by our works. People have physical needs. Many times we need to meet those needs before we can reach their spiritual needs. Some people back away from works, but God is going to go right to the works.

Matthew 5:16 ... they may see your good works, and glorify your Father ...

Are the people around you, who see your works, glorifying your Father?

Hebrews 6:10 ...God is not unrighteous to forget your work...

Nehemiah 4:6 ...the people had a mind to work.

A mind to work is something that we need to keep in prayer. It won't come naturally..

C. Hope—the fuel of faith

To have God-sized faith we need a God-sized hope.

Hebrews 11:1 ...faith is the substance of things hoped for...

What are you hoping for? They say our carbon footprint is substantial, but, how about our faith footprint? We have left a faith footprint, our faith fingerprints, everywhere we have gone in the Spirit of God; everywhere leaving the substance of hoping for Jesus to return. Is our hope big enough to make a difference in the actions of our lives? A little hope won't get the faith engine moving. I used to have a little scooter when I was about ten or twelve, and a little gas wouldn't get it moving, but, with enough gas, I could get up to the mailbox and back—about a half a mile. Our hope in Christ needs to be real. Then people will see the faith in action.

Colossians 1:23, 27 ...the hope of glory.

Many of us have self-esteem problems, but you are worthy. Hope is like a cord, an attachment to God. Where do we get this hope?

Galatians 3:27 ...been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Timothy 1:1 ...Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

1 John 3:3 ...every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself...

D. Charity; agape love

Matthew 22:37-40 ...love thy neighbour as thyself...

We need to have agape love for ourselves before we can truly love our neighbor as ourselves. It needs to be a 24-7 relationship. We can do it; we just need to get it done. We can make a difference, if we stay about our Father's business.

Matthew 6:14 ...if ye forgive men their trespasses...

Matthew 18:21-22 ...how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? ...

Micah 6:8 ...do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly...