

Well of course the fact is that the word as you used in the KJV is very different from the word hope as used in our common language. As we use it it means a desire, a wish, a little thought. It does not mean anything that we would put in the same category with faith and with love. But the Scripture does put it in that category. It speaks of the hope of salvation as the helmet that we should put on. I think it is good that we should think a little bit about this. With all the importance ^{that it} ~~that it~~ is given in the Scripture, what importance ^{really} ~~should it have~~ should it have really in our lives? What does it really mean?

Well now this word ~~elips~~ ^{elips} as it began in Gk. did not actually mean desire or wish. It simply meant expectation. And in our earliest Greek writings we have some cases where there is hope expressed of something that is harmful and not desired. We do not have many, but we have a few. Probably very early the word began to change to an expectation of something that was desired, of something that was good. We find a trace of the original meaning of the word in Isa., in the 28th chapter where he speaks of the terror that is coming to people. Of their terror, their fear, and the LXX trans. it "of the hope of evil." In other words "of the expectation of evil." -- very different from our meaning today as you see.

Now this original idea of expectation gradually became limited to the expectation of good things -- to that of which we could feel quite certain regarding the future. And that was the meaning of it when Wycliff made his translation in the 14th Cent. We find there that hope is not ^{only} /always used for elips, but we find that the verb that goes with elpis, elpidzo is always translated hope in the X in the Wycliff's version. But when we get a little later we get to Tyndall's version, we find that in some of these cases he translated elpidzo differently, and when we get to the KJV you find that 18 times elpidzo is translated trust instead of hope. Our Eng. word was deteriorating. Hope today is just a little wish, a little desire as commonly used. It does not express the Biblical idea. And so trust is used for the vb. 18 times in the KJV. I checked all of these cases in the RSV and in the NEB and I found that in every one of them they had gone back to the word hope. Now this is more consistent than the KJV