

Hope

- Hope—a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen:
- Is there something that you hope for?
- Maybe it's retirement, the end of the week, until you get a new car or your license?
- What is it that we hope for?
- Does anyone know what I look forward to more than anything else?
- There are only 25 days until Christmas!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Every year I countdown the days until Christmas and I look forward to this season.
- Christmas brings the best out of most people. *“About 34 percent of all charitable giving is done in the last three months of the year, according to McLaughlin. Of those donations, about 18 percent are given in December alone”.* According to a USA today article.
- I think that we give to others more this time of year is because of the gift of hope that was given to us through the birth of Jesus.
- This hope that we have needs to be shared.
- We live in a world that seems to have very little hope.
- We have a world of terror, war, tensions between nations, races, social classes.
- If I were a non-believer I would be very concerned.
- The future would have very little hope for me.
- But I am a believer and I have hope in God.
- **Psalm 71:5 (NLT) — 5 O Lord, you alone are my hope. I've trusted you, O LORD, from childhood.**
- **1 Timothy 1:1 (NLT) — 1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, appointed by the command of God our Savior and Christ Jesus, who gives us hope.**
- **Matthew 12:21 (NLT) — 21 And his name will be the hope of all the world.”**
- **Matthew was quoting Isaiah 42:4**
- It's this hope that we and all of creation has been waiting for.
- The birth of Jesus was the first step in the salvation of the world.
- Yet creation eagerly awaits the second coming of Jesus when the curse will be lifted from creation.
- **Romans 8:19-22**
- **19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's**

children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

- All of creation looks forward to the day of its salvation!
- Every year we are reminded that this season is not just about remembering the birth of Jesus. We are to look forward to His return.
- Are our hearts hopeful of His return?
- Do we look forward to that day when Jesus comes and restores His rule on this Earth and throughout all creation?
- Do we groan for that day?
- **Romans 8: 23 And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.**
- Have you ever tasted the icing that was going on a cake and that taste just left you wanting more or took a small piece off the turkey?
- The Holy Spirit is just a taste of what God has awaiting us when Jesus returns.
- There is hope in the resurrection and eternal life.
- **Titus 1:2 (NLT) — 2 This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.**
- **Titus 3:7 (NLT) — 7 Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.**
- **1 Peter 1:3 (NLT) — 3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,**
- **Romans 8:24-25 24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)**
- We hope for something that we haven't realized yet.
- Yet we still hope for the future glory that we will receive!
- **Romans 5:2 (NLT) — 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.**
- **Titus 2:13 (NLT) — 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.**

- **Galatians 5:5 (NLT) — 5 But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us.**
- We eagerly wait for the perfect body, the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us.
- We hope for the time when we will feel no more hunger, thirst, sorrow, pain...
- We hope for the day when Jesus will reign as king of kings and lord of Lords.
- As we have this hope it will separate us from those without hope.
- We will act and react differently than those without hope.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NLT) — 3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **Hebrews 6:19 (NLT) — 19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.**
- **1 John 3:1–3 (NLT) — 1 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. 2 Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 3 And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.**
- We have been called the children of light but I think that we are the children of hope.
- We have hope living in us!
- That hope is eternal.
- **1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) — 13 Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.**
- It is not just today. Not just during Christmas season but forever.
- What a gift God has given us to share with the world.
- Are we ready to go and tell others about the hope we have.
- Let's go and tell the story of our hope that we have because of the birth of Jesus.