

GOD'S GIFT OF HOPE FOR YOU

God's Gift to Us this Christmas

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
Proverbs 13:12 (NIV)*

Poor Substitutes for Hope

- _____
- _____
- _____

Definition: Hope is the confident expectation that God is willing and able to fulfill His promises to us.

"In [God's] great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

HOW TO EMBRACE THIS MESSAGE OF HOPE

1. Those seeking Jesus _____

"In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him." Luke 2:25 (TMNT)

"Many objects are not seen though it falls within the range of the visual eye." – Henry David Thoreau

2. God's _____ many times precede his _____.

"The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple." Luke 2:26-27 (TMNT)

3. Until we see Jesus, we are _____!

As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

"God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see: A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel." Luke 2:28-32 (TMNT)

4. Never give _____.

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me; teach me; for you are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope except in you." Psalm 25:4,5 (LB)

- **We have hope because we're _____ of our past.**

"This I call to mind and therefore I have hope: because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning." Lamentations 3:21-23 (NASB)

- **We have hope because we're _____ of our future.**

"He saved us in His mercy – not by virtue of any moral achievement of ours... We are acquitted by His grace, and can look forward in hope to inheriting life eternal." Titus 3:5,7 (PB)

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Hebrews 6:19

"Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking." – Max Lucado