

The Gift of Hope

As we continue in our advent series, I want us to be reminded about the giver of gifts. It is very possible, as we all know, to get so busy in the trappings of the holiday season that we forget the one we celebrate.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Today we are going to talk about the gift of hope.

Hope is a positive expectation that God is working on your behalf.

We can have hope because God declares himself the source of everything we need.

"Yet for us there is [only] one God, the Father, Who is the Source of all things and for Whom we [have life], and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through and by Whom are all things and through and by Whom we [ourselves exist]. [Mal. 2:10.]" 1 Corinthians 8:6

God tells us that he is the source of all things needed for an abundant life, and he tells us the key to receiving is to abide.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5 NKJV

There are three unchangeable truths about God that should be a source of great hope for us.

1) He is Omnipresent, present in all places at the same time.

“Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp. So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Then Moses said to the Lord, “See, You say to me, ‘Bring up this people.’ But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.’ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth.” So the Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”” Exodus 33:7-19

God was going to fulfill the promise made to Abraham that they would have a promised land. A land that was blessed, that had crops that they did not have to plant, animals that they did not have to raise, and had gold, silver and other precious materials, and it came with the promise of divine health.

Moses was not interested in the benefits of the promised land if it did not include the benefactor himself.

God loves you so much his plan from the beginning was to be in you not just with you. In the Old Testament there was an external physical representation of God. He was in the cloud and pillar of fire.

Because of the redemptive work of Jesus, you became the temple and God's presence is in you. The question is, is your focus on receiving all the benefits of salvation or is it in your heart to live in relationship with the one who provided it?

2)He is Omniscient, having universal knowledge or knowledge of all things; infinitely knowing; all-seeing; as the omniscient God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.” Proverbs 3:5-10 NKJV

Think about this promise, the God, who created everything, knows everything, sees everything, promises to lead and direct your paths.

3)He is Omnipotent, almighty; possessing unlimited power; all powerful. The being that can create worlds must be omnipotent.

His power is best revealed through his creation, where he created everything we see and experience with the power of his word.

“Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated by the power of God's words! He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen.” Hebrews 11:3 TPT

When God spoke all things into existence it is the word of His power that holds all things together.

“who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” Hebrews 1:3 NKJV

I want this Christmas season to be marked as the time that you see and believe what the omnipotent, all-powerful God has already done for you.

I want you to see that through the redemptive work of Jesus that God has already fulfilled every redemptive promise.

“For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding “Yes!” And through Christ, our “Amen” (which means “Yes”) ascends to God for his glory.” 2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT

I want to close the service by praying Paul’s prayer for the church. And I want you to understand that Paul was praying from an understanding of what Jesus had already accomplished.

“I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know him through your deepening intimacy with him. I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling —that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that he finds in us, his holy ones! I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! And now he is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age, but in the age that is coming!” Ephesians 1:17-21 TPT