

The Gift of Hope

As we begin 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.

It is important to understand the difference between hope and faith.

- Hope is a positive expectation of a future promise.
- Faith is how you receive the manifestation of the promise.

Hebrews 11:1 AMPC “NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].”

Let me illustrate, on the wall in your house you have a thermostat, it is what controls your heater/air conditioner unit.

If it is 63 when you get up, you turn your thermostat to 69 and the heater comes on.

The thermostat is like hope, it sets the expectation. Faith is like the heat pump that creates the heat.

If your hope doesn't set the expectation, your faith has nothing to produce.

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.]”

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.

John 15:5 “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.”

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.

Exodus 33:7-16 “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.""

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.

God created every atom, every element and every law and he foreknew every use.

God anticipated every want, need and desire we would ever have and created ways to fulfill those needs.

God anticipated the expansion of the earth, every village, city, county, state and country. He knew that one day we would want to travel to see all of His creation.

He created ore that would one day be used to create metal that would eventually be used for planes.

He created the laws of thrust and lift so now you can get on a plane and fly to any place your heart desires.

I believe that there is still so much more that God has for us.

1 Corinthians 2:9 TPT “This is why the Scriptures say: Things never discovered or heard of before, things beyond our ability to imagine — these are the many things God has in store for all his lovers.”

I believe there are still elements that have yet to be discovered.

There are uses of our existing elements that have yet to be discovered.

There are natural laws that are yet to be discovered and ways to use existing laws that have yet to be discovered.

Ask for wisdom

James 1:5 NKJV “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

I believe that there is not a situation in your life that God has not already provided a solution for.

Proverbs 3:5-10 “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.”

Here is the truth, when a challenge comes up, we lean on our own understanding, search YouTube, phone a friend, then when we can't figure it out, we go to the God who has already seen your situation and has a plan to fix it.

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.

Before the foundation of the world, God anticipated Adam's rebellion, and he knew the effects that sin would have on humanity.

Through the atoning work of Jesus he would take away the root of sin, and the fruit of sickness, weakness, oppression, and depression.

Psalms 103:1-5 NKJV “Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Through the power of Jesus’ resurrection we are empowered once again to reign in life again.

Romans 5:17 NKJV “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”