

Tis the Season  
To be Anchored in Hope  
December 10, 2023

**Luke 2:25-28** He was righteous and devout and was **eagerly waiting** for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **That day** the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God...

**Romans 15:13** I pray that God, **the source of hope**, will fill you completely with joy and peace **because you trust in him**. Then you will **overflow with confident hope** through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope is not:

- ✓ Wishful \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Blind \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✓ Ambitious \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 1:27** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

**Key Thought:** Hope is a confident \_\_\_\_\_ based on something \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is being \_\_\_\_\_ of what we hope for and \_\_\_\_\_ of what we do not see.

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

**Acts 27:14-29** But the weather **changed abruptly**...and blew us out to sea. The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up... The terrible storm raged for many days...until at last **all hope**

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**was gone...** “last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, ‘Don’t be afraid...God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone’...**take courage! For I believe God.** It will be just as he said”... At this rate they were afraid we would soon be driven against the rocks along the shore, so they threw out four anchors from the back of the ship and prayed for daylight...

#### Ways to stay anchored in hope:

1. **We’re anchored when we cultivate \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Exodus 33:15-16** Then Moses said, “If you don’t personally go with us, don’t make us leave this place. How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don’t go with us? For **your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth.**”

2. **We’re anchored when we hold onto \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 4:18-21** Even when there was **no reason for hope**, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. **Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise.** In fact, his faith **grew stronger**, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.

3. **We’re anchored when we understand \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 5:2-4** And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice **in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering produces** perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, **hope.**

**Walk Away:** Put your hope in the \_\_\_\_\_. Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you by giving you the land. (Psalm 37:34)

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