

**The Greatest Gift**  
**Pt. 1, The Gift of Hope**  
**Pastor TW Norman**

Luke 2:4-7 “So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Hope — a joyful expectation.

**1. God’s Promises Are Trustworthy**

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem... from you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel

**2. Waiting Is Active, Not Passive**

James 1:2-4 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

What do you do while you wait?

\*pray with expectation.

\*worship with confidence.

\*obey even when we don’t see progress.

\*keep our hearts aligned with His Word.

**3. Hope Transforms Our Perspective**

Psalms 119:90 “Your faithfulness continues through all generations.”

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.”

#### **IV: Practical Application**

- a) Identify where you are waiting and is it biblical
- b) Create a "Hope List."
  - Promises from Scripture
  - Promises God has spoken to your heart
  - Things you are believing God for
  - Promises that God has kept before
- c) Choose Hope daily.