

Christmas The Gift of Hope

Craig Smith • God's Promises • December 13, 2020

Ice breaker: Tell of a childhood promise that either was or was not fulfilled. How did it affect your thinking about future promises and how did it make you feel about the person who made it?

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. (Heb. 10:23)

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

¶ **Patience is a command because God's promises require waiting** – “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.” (James 5:7-8)

Why do you think God sometimes makes us wait on His promises to be fulfilled?

Our Christmas hope is found in a promised Name(s)...

- **Rod of Jesse: the hope of a King to rule** – “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:1-2)

In Isaiah 11:1-2 we see many things about the Spirit. Which one brings you the most comfort and peace right now and why?

For to us a child is born...And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

- **Day-Spring: the hope of a Light to lead** – “because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. (Eph. 5:8-10)

Describe in your words what it means to live as “children of light.” What changes would need to be made in your everyday life to live in that way?

- **Desire of nations: the hope of a kingdom to come** – “I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,” says the LORD Almighty.” (Haggai 2:7)
- **Key of David: the hope of a victory to enjoy** – “I will place on His shoulder the key to the house of David; what He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.” (Isaiah 22:22)

What are looking forward to most in the future kingdom that Jesus will establish?

Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. (2 Cor. 1:20a)

The statement was made that you can petition God whenever you want, with whatever you want because He has the power to bring it about. Does that change anything about how you might pray in the future?

There are hundreds of promises in the Bible. Will you begin searching for them, believing them and claiming them with a “Yes” in Christ?

If you already have some favorite promises, share one with the group.