

Unwrapping Hope

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December 7th, 2025

Preached By Tahasha Foxe

Prepared by Sean Tavakoli

OPENING PRAYER

God, open our hearts today to hear Your truth about generosity and teach us to trust You with everything we have.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 1:21

1 Timothy 1:1

Titus 2:13

1 Peter 1:3

Philippians 2:9

Proverb 13:12

Galatians 4:4-5

Romans 5:13

Hebrews 6:17-19

KEY TAKE AWAYS

1. Hope is not a feeling or wish—it's a person named Jesus
2. God's delays are not denials; His timing is always perfect
3. Biblical hope is confident expectation rooted in God's unchanging promises
4. Jesus came once for salvation and will return for His bride. We can trust God's faithfulness in the past as a guarantee for the future.

QUESTIONS

1. The sermon distinguishes between ordinary hope and biblical hope. How would you describe the difference in your own words, and how can understanding this difference impact our daily lives and current situations?
2. The message discusses the concept of waiting and God's perfect timing. Can you share an experience from your life where you felt you were in a "waiting season"? How did you see

God's timing play out in that situation?

3. What does it mean for hope to have a name, specifically the name of Jesus? How does this shape your understanding of hope in the context of your faith journey?
4. Reflect on the significance of Advent as a period of anticipation and preparation. How can observing Advent help you deepen your understanding and experience of hope in this season?
5. The sermon encourages us to anchor ourselves in the hope that Jesus offers. What are practical steps you can take this holiday season to strengthen your hope in Christ and share it with others? How can this belief in Jesus as our hope change how you approach challenges or uncertainties?

PRACTICE

1. Hope Assessment

- Take time to journal about areas where you're placing your hope
- Are you trusting in ordinary hope (circumstances, people, outcomes) or biblical hope (Jesus and His promises)?
- Surrender those areas to God in prayer

2. Study the Names of Jesus

- Research and meditate on different names of Jesus throughout Scripture
- Choose one name each day and reflect on what it reveals about His character
- Share what you discover with someone else

3. Practice Waiting Well

- Identify one area where you're currently in a waiting season
- Each day this week, thank God for something He's done in the past (His faithfulness)
- Ask Him to develop something in you during this waiting period

4. Advent Reflection

- Light a candle each evening this week and spend 5-10 minutes in quiet reflection
- Thank God that Jesus came once, is with us now (Emmanuel), and is coming again
- Pray for someone who needs hope

5. Share Your Hope

- Identify one person in your life who seems hopeless or discouraged
- Share with them how Jesus has been your hope in difficult times
- Offer to pray with them

CLOSING PRAYER

Close by praying together the prayer from Romans 15:13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

