

Advent Series: *Hope Inspires*

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 11/27/2016



I. **Everyday Hope**

II. **Angelic Encounter**

Luke 1:30-33

III. **Mary's Response**

Luke 1:46-49

IV. **Empowered By True Hope**

Personal Reflection

Set aside fifteen minutes this week to pray & respond to the following:

Christmas is more than a baby in a manger, gifts & good cheer—it is the fulfillment of God's promise to send the Deliverer into a dark & hopeless world. At the first advent, Almighty God was born of a woman who was supernaturally conceived & chosen to play a role in the plan of redemption. This miracle is God's perfect response to the world's desperate need for hope.

There are two kinds of hope: wishful thinking & certain assurance that the outcome will be positive because the One in whom the hope is placed is unfailing. The latter kind—true hope, can only be found in God.

This kind of hope is not automatic in life. It's presence or absence is the result of one's recognition or denial of the saving grace of the Messiah. True hope sets the bearer free to love deeply, serve sacrificially & forgive without regret. It inspires because it confirms that God is in control & He is present in the lives of His people.

In whom or what are you placing your hope? Does it extend beyond wishful thinking for better days & easier times? Have you been set free by hope in God's unfailing goodness & grace? Is your capacity to love, serve & forgive maturing & deepening because of the security of your hope in the Lord?

Prayerfully ask God to reveal the true foundation & nature of your hope. Thank Him for becoming the Messiah—for bringing hope into this lost world. Commit to be both a bearer of true hope & a proclaimer of it to others this Christmas season.