

Christmas - Reveals Hope!



Luke 2:10-11_{ESV}

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

1 Peter 1:3 NIV

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...



Gallup Research, 3 Growing Tendencies:

- 1. People are having more negative experiences and fewer positive ones.
 - 2. Stress, sadness, and worry are at their highest recorded levels.
- 3. People do not feel rested and experience less joy than at any other time in history!

(Global Emotions Report, 2022)





2 Corinthians 4:16-18 _{NIV}

16 ...we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Hope is Not Passive... Hope is Active!

"Hope is defined as the perceived ability to produce pathways to achieve desired goals and to motivate oneself to use those pathways." (Oxford University, Handbook of Positive Psychology, 2018)

"...hope is a cognitive practice that involves the <u>intentional act</u> <u>of setting goals and working toward them</u> with purpose."

(Arizona State University, Research 2021)

How To Make Room for Hope?

- 1. What are the facts about the situation? 1 Thess. 5:21_{NLT} ...test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good.
- 2. What does God's word say? Psalm 119:130_{NLT} ...your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.
- 3. What goals should I prayerful set? Prov. 16:3_{NLT} ... Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.
- 4. What faith steps can I take? Heb. 11:1_{ESV} ... faith is the assurance of <u>things hoped for</u>, the conviction of <u>things not seen</u>.



"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Christmas Giveaway 2023... Bringing Hope! (£7,000 already...)

- •CAP (Remove Debt. £100-£200k?)
- Pakistan (Generations of Slavery New Lives)
- India (Vehicle & Food for Vulnerable)
- Middle East (Refugees / Education)
- Macedonia (Impacting Community)
- Guatemala (Bunk beds / Enterprise)



God's Promise ...



Isaiah 40:31 _{NIV}

³¹ But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Romans 15:13 NIV

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.

