



Gift of Hope

Sunday, December 7, 2014

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Introduction:

- Christmas is coming soon!
- Season of giving

Everything good comes from God. Every perfect gift is from him. These good gifts come down from the Father who made all the lights in the sky. But God never changes like the shadows from those lights. He is always the same.

James 1:17 ERV

Receiving God's Gift of Hope

1. Hope is found _____

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** NLT

2. Hope is not based on _____

This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys—we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 Phillips NT

Sharing God's Gift of Hope

1. Be _____

And in another place Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him." I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:12-13** NLT

2. Be _____

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. **Acts 8:26-27** NRSV

Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **Acts 8:29-30** NRSV

Next Steps:

- Receive Jesus as my Savior so that I can know the hope that he brings
- Give the gift of hope this Christmas season by overflowing with hopefulness
- Be alert to every opportunity that God will bring my way, between now and Christmas, to be a giver of the perfect gifts that God has for us
- Meditate on / Memorize James 1:17
- _____