

The Thrill of Hope Comes Through God's Promises 12-13-20
Luke 1:57-79

Intro: (rope) Biblical "Hope" in Hebrew *qavah* – wait with longing in confident expectation.

- **Hebrew root word *qav***– to **BIND** together as with a **cord** and **expectantly wait**
 - *"You, O Lord, are my hope (qavah) my trust, O LORD, from my youth."* (Ps. 71:5)
- **Faith and Hope are bound together** – hard to tell the difference until you're *hanging!*
- **English word "hope"** is an **abstract feeling** or desire; a **"wish"**

I. "Advent" from Latin *adventus* meaning "coming or arrival". Church around the world celebrates Advent as fulfilled 1st time in Jesus coming as a baby and waiting for 2nd coming.

- Also Christ "coming" in personal, powerful presence any time we seek him.

II. Sermon Series Title: *Thrill of Hope* from the song "O Holy Night"

*"Long lay the world in sin and error pining. 'Til he appeared and the soul felt it's worth.
The thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices, yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."*

III. Theme Verse: 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.*

IV. Message: *Advent waiting exposes our FAITH so we can bind our hope to God and His Personal PROMISES.* What has God promised YOU? Promised all of us?

V. Proverbs 13:12 - Broken Promises or Long Delays Lead to "Heart Disease" – gov't, boss, teacher, coach, parent, spouse, friend, etc.

- **Proverbs 13:12** *Hope deferred makes the heart sick but a longing fulfilled is tree of life.*
- **My "heart disease" over broken promises** – deep **disappointment** that feels like betrayal and abandonment, led to **depression** (loss/grief/*dispair*), **doubt** (w/o trust hope is gone for relationship), **anxiety** ("what if" future), **bitterness** (hard heart), **cynicism** (others will do the same), **unbelief** (dead heart; God did not take care of me).
- **Psalm 119:116** *Sustain me according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.* (NIV)

VI. Biblical Hope is "IN" God who IS LOVE

- **Is. 40:31** *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*
- **1 Cor. 13:2, 13** *"...if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. Now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*
- **"God IS Love"** – 1 John 4:8
- **FAITH & HOPE for God's "promises" must be bound like a cord to God's LOVE**
 - **Ex. John 14:13** *Ask anything in my name and I will do it.*
 - **Jesus in Gethsemane** – *"Father take this cup ...not my will but yours be done."*

VII. Review Message 12-6-20: *Advent waiting exposes our heart's deepest longings so we can bind ourselves to God's PRESENCE!* Zechariah encounters an angel in the Temple.

1. Persevere in Righteousness

- Perseverance **PRODUCES** character and hope - Romans 5:2-5
- Persevering **PROTECTS** us from "heart disease" – Prov. 13:12

2. Place yourself Daily in God's Presence

- Hebrews 6:19-20 “*Hope as an anchor for the soul...*”

3. Prepare to Receive and Act on God’s Promises – Zechariah’s needed a “sign”

VIII. Text: Luke 1:57-80 Zechariah & Elizabeth’s experience God & His personal promise!

- God sent an angel to speak words of Personal PROMISE behind the veil in God’s “**P.P.P.**” (“**Personal and Powerful Presence**”)

IX. When God makes His PROMISES PERSONAL:

- a. We have **CONFIDENT EXPECTATION** for “**GOOD**” **Outcomes** because God is good!
 - a. **Trust God who loves you** with **specific results** – Don’t make the thing you’re hoping FOR be what you’re hoping IN.
- b. Vs. 24-25 - We make **FAITH-filled PREPARATION** - Expectation inspires preparation. How’s your expectation level?
 - a. Zech & Elizabeth prepare in seclusion for 5 months until Mary came to visit.
- c. Vs. 62-64, 67-79 - We Experience **PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION!** wrote, “his name is John”, was able to speak; praised God, filled w/ Holy Spirit and prophesied.

X. Question: How do we receive God’s personalized promises? (without an angel!)

1. Experience God’s Personal Powerful Presence (“P.P.P”)
2. Discover God’s promises in the Scripture – **Google God’s promises on any topic!**
3. Ask for the Holy Spirit to personalize and confirm his word of promise for you
4. Ask for a “sign” of confirmation – let God decide what kind of “sign”
5. Write it down! Keep it! Write about how it impacts you emotionally, what specific situations you think it’s for, etc.

XI. Tests for discerning God’s Personalized Promise - Hearing the “voice” of God.

1. **Test of Hope** – do you feel more hopeful?
2. **Test of Time** – does it grow stronger with time?
 - a. **Note:** Sometimes it’s better to keep it to yourself for a season (Elizabeth/Mary)
3. **Test of Jesus and Scripture** – does it align with the life of Jesus & Scripture?
4. **Test of Fulfillment** – be watchful. Does anything happen in line with the promise?

XII. Transformation Testimony Gives Hope To Others:

- **Luke 1:76-79 Zechariah gives testimony** and speaks a prophetic message of hope over his son John the Baptist, for 1st century Israel, and for all the nations of the world!

XIII. Our Greatest Gospel HOPE: Our bodily Resurrection and the Restoration of all creation.

- **John 11:** ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.^[d] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

XIV. Message: *Waiting exposes our FAITH so we can bind our hope to God and his personal PROMISES.*

- **Is. 55:11** *My word that proceeds from my mouth will not return void but accomplish everything for which it was intended.*
- **Psalms 130** ⁵ *I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.*

XV. God Promises:

Forever Present With You - Deuteronomy 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

His Love Endures Forever – Jeremiah 31:3 “...I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

Renewed Strength - Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Good Plans For Your Future - Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Provision For Your Needs - Matthew 6:31-33 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Rest For Your Soul - Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Resurrection and Eternal Life - John 11:25 Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.'

Hearing and Answering Our Prayers - John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

His Perfect Peace - John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Freedom From Bondage - John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.