

## DEVOTIONAL FOR HEBREWS 11-13; 2 TIMOTHY; 2 PETER; JUDE

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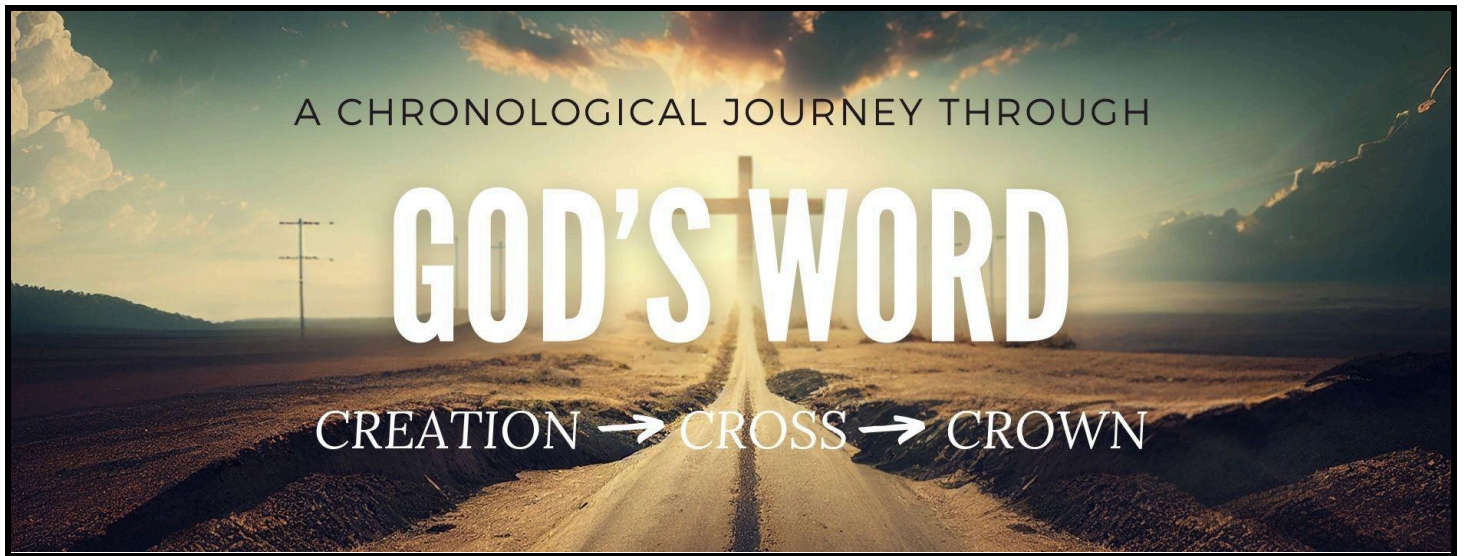
Hope: This word is used in our English language in so many different ways. I have cooked dinners and "hope" they turn out decent. Many of us have "hoped" that the latest, greatest kitchen gadget would make our lives more efficient. My kids have "hoped" for presents that would make life so special. I have hoped for healing in family and friends as they battle illness. I have hoped that those who don't know Christ will come to trust and love Him. Even today, on Christmas Eve many children are hoping to open just one present this evening, while many parents are just hoping to get some rest.

Hebrews 11 begins by saying, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This is an expectant and confident hope that points to faith in a person: Jesus. This type of hope brings about a patient waiting for salvation. The rest of the chapter embarks on a timeline of believers who set their full confidence in God, through which they were commended as righteous. Imagine you were one of the Old Testament believers placing hope that God would one day bring redemption. Your faith hinges on the truth that God exists as the creator and ruler of all things and that one day He will send someone to bring salvation. You are keenly aware of the scriptures and are looking for the birth of the Messiah. However, the narrative that you may have envisioned your entire life looks different from the outcome God provides. His plan is different from yours, but you know that He is here and holds the future. Your faith allows you to trust God in every outcome.

Where are you placing your hope and reward? Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Our confidence can rest that God desires us to be near to Him, to know Him intimately and that He is our reward. Jesus left heaven to dwell among us and reveal grace and truth (John 1:14). Christ gave His life to pay the price for your sin, and the free gift of eternal life. (Romans 6:23) There is no greater gift to hope for!

### Questions:

1. Name some of the things you have hoped for lately. Is what you are hoping for taking up more space in your heart and mind than it should?



2. Have you misplaced hope during this season chasing after a Christmas experience? Consider reading Luke 2 with your family to help refocus.
3. Want to know more about the greatest gift of salvation in Jesus? We would love to visit. Reach out to us at [pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com](mailto:pastoraloffice@stonepointchurch.com).