

# REDISCOVER CHRISTMAS

GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

*ADVENT*

*“FINDING HOPE IN OUR UNCERTAINTIES”*

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25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Luke 2:25-26, NKJV

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27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

Luke 2:27-28, NKJV

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29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,  
According to Your word;  
30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation  
31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,  
32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,  
And the glory of Your people Israel."

Luke 2:29-32, NKJV

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36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:36-38, NKJV

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Simeon and Anna reveal several things about hope and its power that we can take away and apply in our lives.

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I. Hope sees beyond.

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24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Romans 8:24-25, NKJV

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24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

Romans 8:24-26, NIV

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## *Facts About Hope*

- Hope that is seen is no hope at all.
- Hope precedes our present reality.
- Hope, by its very nature, exists in the uncertainty.
  - Hope exists in questions.
  - Hope exists in doubts.
- Hope exists in the unclear sense of what is to come.
- Hope is the willingness and desire to believe beyond what our present circumstances and reality are presenting to us.

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II. God is with us—here, now, and  
always.

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1 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:1-2, NIV

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## III. Hope inspires us to carry on.

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2 And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.  
3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;  
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.  
5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:2-5, NIV

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