



God With Us: Living Hope

December 4-5, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

Series Overview:

Advent is a season of preparation. A season of anticipation!
A season of Peace, Hope Love and Joy, and we need more of all four!

Series Discussion Questions:

How is God working around me in this season to show me His Peace, Hope, Love and Joy?

Message Overview:

Hope. It's become a frail and weakened concept. The consistency of hope being deferred or hope being disappointed has taken a toll on our society. Are we speaking of a hope or a wish though? There's a big difference between the two! To hope is something that is grounded in possibility or even probability. To actively hope in Christ, is to live and work in confidence with an eternal perspective on all the events of our life. As expectations are disappointed through life, how do we continue to live a hope-filled existence? We have to examine the object of our hope and the longevity of perspective as well. We'll allow the Scripture to speak to this critical concept as we continue in this season of Advent.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions:

Where do you see hope as a wish?

Where do you see hope as a possibility & probability?

To hope is to be grounded in something that is full of possibility

- Read Romans 5:1-5
- Hope does not disappoint
- What are some statements of hope that have been spoken over your life?
- How can you draw strength on these statements of hope?

"Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present."
Dr. John C. Maxwell

Hope is sparked in our souls; Ordinary hope vs. theological hope

- Read Matthew 19:26
- Read 1 Peter 1:3
- The hope from God is a stance; a divine infusion of the grace of God; the fuel of the Holy Spirit
- This hope is a CONFIDENCE, not just a wish!
- What do you expect and believe about your future? What happens when we live in the mindset of spiritual victory?

Recognize the challenges to hope

1. Read Romans 5:3. Hope comes in the midst of obstacles
2. Read Psalm 30:5. Hope is active waiting.
 - There's a difference between actively waiting and passively waiting.
 - Be active in your hope
3. Read Hebrew 10:23. Jesus is the object of our hope.
 - Hope is a person. Hope is not power, control, comfort or approval.
 - Are you hoping in Jesus or hoping in something else that turns up void?
4. Hope is not just for you. What are ways we can give hope to those around us?

Reflection Questions – take these with you throughout the week

1. **Where have you placed your hope?**
2. **Where have you lost your hope?**
3. **With whom do you need to share hope?**

"Hope is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it. That is not hoping in God but bullying God... My life is on the line before God, my Lord, waiting and watching till morning, waiting and watching till morning"

Eugene Peterson, [Long obedience in the same direction](#)

Prayer: Lord, fill my heart and mind with your hope. Give me a new birth of living hope. Help me cultivate the gifts you have placed in me. I trust you to bring it to life.

Practical Application

- o Develop a daily rhythm of renewal and resilience in the middle of the hustle and bustle. Connecting with what God is doing around us, through a short daily devotional. Download the [NCC app](#) or go to ncc.re/daily.
- o Review the verses in this week's sermon discussion guide. Write down in your journal one thing that God is showing you as a way to live with a Spirit-filled hope in this season of life.
- o Start the day with positive encouragement, in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at ncc.re/UpperZoom**