

**Tuesday, December 12**

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:24-30

**Text for Today:** *Thou art my hope, O Lord God; thou art my trust from my youth.* Psalm 71:5

As the most wonderful time of the year approaches, the birthday of our Saviour, many hopes and prayers fill our lives. Hope has varied meanings to different people.

If you should ask a small child what he is hoping for at this time of year, he might mention something very tangible, such as a toy or computer game. A teenager may be wishing for an invitation to a certain social event or yearning for a popular new fashion item. Adults may be desiring less material rewards, for example, job opportunities, mending of a personal relationship, improved health, or retirement opportunities or decisions. Many families are hoping that special serviceman or woman will be able to join them for the holidays.

Hope is believing and comes as a gift from our Saviour. It makes it possible to face many difficult situations. Many of our troops are experiencing trust and hope in some very dangerous situations. Prisoners have often related the events they encountered and confessed that faith carried them through.

Expressions of joy come from children when their hope becomes reality, when young people are accepted by friends, and when relationships are mended or health is restored.

When hope is fulfilled, joy is experienced. Positive results help our rejoicing to be contagious to others. Not all of our desires are granted since God knows our needs. Nevertheless, we grow as a result of our trust.

**Prayer:** Our Father, thank you for giving us the gift of hope. May we use this gift to promote peace to all people in all parts of our world. May this Christmas season renew and strengthen our faith and trust in thee. Amen.

*Emily Rohrscheib*