

Wednesday, January 3

Scripture Reading: Romans 5: 1-5 NIV

Text for Today: Romans 5: 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.*

When I heard the theme “**The Hope of Christmas**”, I immediately thought of one of my favorite old hymns: “**Whispering Hope**”. This song begins: “**soft as the voice of an angel.**” My experience has taught me that once I accepted Christ as my savior, (I gained access by faith into this grace), hope, softly and gently began making itself apparent in my life. As my faith grows, hope lifts and sustains me. It seems the more I trust and believe, the more I experience God’s love and mercy in my life. By this I am convinced that God only wants the best for me and as I trust more and more, I realize that is what is available for me, hope for the future, hope for each day. Even when life seems to thrust suffering and sorrow in my life, I know from past experience that God is still in charge and when I listen for the message, that soft voice of hope is there. Not something I believe because of magic, but because my past experience shows me that the God I worship is a kind and loving God who wants only good for me. Hope is that grace which holds me up when all seems to be falling down around me. Jesus is evidence of that hope which came to us in the form of a Babe and whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Prayer: Gracious God, Giver of all good and perfect gifts, thank you for Jesus, the Hope of Christmas. Let us use this hope to inspire us to reach out to those around us, particularly those who have not yet heard this soft voice of an angel. It is through our relationship with you and Jesus that we are strengthened to serve others. Help us to enable others to find that hope. Amen.

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