



November 30, 2014

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Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:17 (NIV)**

As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give good things to people who ask. **Matthew 7:11 (CEV)**

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. **Isaiah 9:2 (NLT)**

The Gift of Hope

1. Hope is found in _____.

¹⁷ He did this in keeping with the prophecy Isaiah made so long ago:

¹⁸ This is My servant, whom I have *well* chosen; this is the One I love, the One in whom I delight. I will place My Spirit upon Him; He will proclaim justice to all the world. ¹⁹ He will not fight or shout or talk loudly in the streets. ²⁰ He will not crush a reed under His heel or blow out a smoldering candle until He has led justice *and righteousness* to final victory. ²¹ All the world will find its hope in His name. **Matthew 12:17-21 (Voice)**

2. Hope is a _____ from God

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, ¹⁷ comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NLT)**

3. Hope is not based on _____

This doesn't mean, of course, that we have only a hope of future joys - we can be full of joy here and now even in our trials and troubles. Taken in the right spirit these very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us. **Romans 5:3 (Phillips NT)**

How Can you Share the Gift of Hope

• Be _____

¹² Again, Isaiah says, "There will be a root from Jesse. He will rise to rule the nations, and he will give the nations hope." ¹³ May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:12-13 (GW)**

• Be _____

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went.... ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **Acts 8:26-39 (NRSV)**

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Receive Jesus as my Savior so that I can know the hope that He brings.
- Give the gift of hope this Christmas Season by overflowing with hopefulness.
- Be alert to every opportunity that God will bring my way, between now and Christmas, in which I can be a giver of the good and perfect gifts that God has for us.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Romans 15:13