



SUN GROVE CHURCH

All I Want for Christmas...is Hope

Intro:

- "Knockoffs" are often authentic looking enough to seem real at quick glance.
- Hebrews 11:1-3
- God is manifested in your life through the Holy Spirit.
- Hope has built in a tension of expectation.
- When we experience disappointment, it's typically because our expectations are different than our current reality.
- Our hope is only as good as the object in which we place our confidence and trust.
- Biblical hope is rooted in God's faithfulness.

Hope in the Old Testament Prophets

- Isaiah 40:31
- Micah 7:7
- Hosea 2:15

Hope in the Silence

- There were 400 years without any word from God.
- God's people had to be tempted to think – "Where did God go? What was He doing?"
- The danger for us in waiting is that we are tempted to get tired, give up, and stop trusting.



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Hope in the Christmas Story

- Luke 1:5-7
- Sometimes we get it in our heads that bad things don't happen to good people.
- Faithful people will face disappointing circumstances.
- It's never too late for hope to enter our story.

Hope in the Challenges

- Luke 1:13-20
- Zechariah had likely given up praying for a child long ago.
- Sometimes we believe in the abstract, but doubt in the particular.
- Luke 1:24-25
- Matthew 11:11
- When hope was fulfilled, it was even better than they had dreamed.

Hope In Our Reality

- Hope helps us see that a roadblock might not be an end, but a fresh turn in the journey.
- Ask: What can I be learning from this?
- Ask: Where do I see God's goodness?
- Hope has come, and Jesus wants to help you get through what you are going through.
- Romans 15:13