

God with Us Brings Hope

Day 7 ACTIVE HOPE

Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Hope that is not alive is no hope at all. Hope sparks like a fire. It flows like water. It grows like a seed. Hope grows and spreads like a living thing. It can dwindle and wane and, yes, even die. But with nurturing care, it can revive and flourish and multiply. The history of God's people is a history of hope – hope birthed and growing, hope ebbing and flowing, hope pursued and neglected, hope abandoned and renewed, hope rising and falling through centuries, and, most of all, hope confirmed and fulfilled in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Apostle Peter wrote that God “has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that could never perish, spoil or fade” (1 Peter 1:3-4.) This is God's living hope that we celebrate during the Advent season. It is a thriving, active, expectant hope. It represents the enduring hope through the centuries of those who waited for the promised Messiah. It celebrates the triumphant arrival of Christ the King. And it seals us into the new and continuing living hope for the completion of God's redemption and restoration.

How was your hope during this season? Focusing on gratitude can renew and grow our hope. Recognizing and appreciating the good that God has shown us in the past can increase our hope for all He will do in the future. Sharing this gratitude and hope with those who love and support us can multiply its effects. As we nurture this living hope, it can sustain us through our darkest days as we wait for God to move. Come, Lord Jesus!

How was your Hope doing? What are you thankful for in this advent season? What step will you take to foster hope in yourself and others around you?