

The Gift of HOPE

Written by Jim Sheard

I've been noticing Christian friends who have faith that is more real and personal than mine. I know the "correct" Bible verses, but they live a closer walk with Jesus. I have learned my faith is more real when I follow these disciplines.

God Loves You ...John 3:16

Receive His Forgiveness...Matthew 7:8

Invite Others...2 Corinthians 5:20

Pray to God; Apply His Word; Abide in Him...John 15:7

I felt challenged recently when I realized the Bible repeatedly states, "my hope is in the Lord; our hope is in His word; and have the hope of eternity." I asked, "How can a person with severe depression possibly live with the hope expressed throughout God's word?"

After meditating on this for a couple of months God helped me prepare this two-sided card to summarize His answer. I cannot "muster up" enough hope by changing my attitude. Instead, hope, like faith and trust, is a gift. They are given to those who believe in Jesus. God proved His love when He came in a manger, lived, died, and overcame the grave. I need to let go and trust Him, rather than trying to figure everything out with my own understanding.

HOPE



is desire with expectation of fulfillment.

Christmas is a reminder of the birth of Jesus in a manger.
Easter is about his death on the cross and resurrection.
The Bible offers truth about His life and teaching.
He wants a relationship with you for eternity.
Put your Hope, Faith, and Trust in Him.
He will fulfill all His promises.

"We bring you good news. God has fulfilled what he promised by raising Jesus."
Acts 13:32-33a paraphrased

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God offers you the gift of HOPE

- H** Hear the Truth...Jesus lived, died, and overcame death.
- O** Open your Heart...God's Word tells of His love for you.
- P** Pray to Him...Believe Jesus died for you.
- E** Experience the Hope...New life and eternity with Him.

GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH...

"Jesus died on the cross to offer you a relationship with him and eternal life.
To receive this gift of HOPE... BELIEVE he died for YOU!"

John 3:16 paraphrased

MERRY CHRISTMAS! The gift of HOPE is the gift of life. It is the gift of a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is the gift of a new life. It is the gift of a new hope. It is the gift of a new faith. It is the gift of a new trust. It is the gift of a new love. It is the gift of a new life. It is the gift of a new hope. It is the gift of a new faith. It is the gift of a new trust. It is the gift of a new love. It is the gift of a new life.