



THE *Hope*

OF CHRISTMAS

Joyful in Hope

(Luke 2:25-33, 36-38)

“Fruits in Season”



“Fruit of the Spirit”

- ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Qualities of the “Fruits of the Spirit”

- God plants them inside you. (“Every good and perfect gift is from above, James 1:17)
- It takes time, attention, and effort to help them grow
- They nourish your own spiritual walk
- They benefit as well, like a bountiful harvest

Advent Sermon Series: “Seasonal Fruits of the Spirit”

- Sunday 3 December: **Hope**
 - Sunday 10 December: **Love**
 - Sunday 17 December: **Joy**
 - Sunday 24 December: **Peace**
- Note: since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year, we will only have a Sunday morning service.

“Now faith is
the substance
of things hoped
for, the
evidence of
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seen”
(Hebrews 11:1)





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Old Testament Prophecies of the Coming Messiah

- ²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to **the coming of an anointed one** (Daniel 9:25 ESV)
- The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor (Isaiah 61:1 ESV)

Common Misconceptions of the Messiah

“By the time of Jesus’s ministry, many in Israel realized that despite the return from Babylon, the nation was still in exile. Injustice and oppression, loss and affliction still dominated national life. The final homecoming had not yet happened.

Many, therefore, began to pray to God for it, but they conceived of it as a national, political liberation for Israel. It was thought that the Messiah, the king who would redeem Israel, would be a figure of great military strength and political power. He would come to his people, be recognized and received by the, and then lead them on to victory.”

--Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God*, p. 100

Joyful in Hope

- ¹² **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

--Romans 12:12

Simeon and Anna: Joyful in Hope for the Coming Messiah

- ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was righteous and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him (Luke 2:25).
- ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were **waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem** (Luke 2:38).

Walking in the Spirit, Simeon recognizes the true Messiah

- ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, ***and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*** ²⁶ And it had been ***revealed to him by the Holy Spirit*** that he would not see death before he had seen **the Lord's Christ.** ²⁷ And he ***came in the Spirit into the temple,*** and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said

Walking in the Spirit, Simeon recognizes the true Messiah

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for **my eyes have seen your salvation**

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about
him.

--(Luke 2:25-33)

Walking in the Spirit, Anna recognizes the true Messiah

- ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, **Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, **worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.** ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him **to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.** (Luke 2:36-38)

Jesus as the Messiah

- Jesus answered, “I am the way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6 NIV)
- ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus^[k] was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. (John 1:40-42)
- ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” (John 4:25-26)

Jesus fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah 61:1

- ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ **And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,**
- ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- ²⁰ **And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down.** And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**" (Luke 4:16-21)

Jesus Christ: The Source of Present and Future Hope

- The Hope for contentment and purpose in this life lies in knowing Jesus as your Savior and Lord and growing into spiritual maturity (“Sanctification”/Making Disciples)
- The Hope for/Assurance of Eternal Life lies in receiving the gift of salvation by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior (“Justification”/Evangelization)
- The link between present Hope and future Hope is Jesus, which we celebrate during the Christmas Season.

Abounding in Hope!

- ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

Let Us Pray

