



— FIVE DAY —  
**CHRISTMAS**  
— *devotional* —

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Christmas is almost here! With it, of course, comes a lot of busyness, preparation, and excitement.

But if I'm not careful, I find myself selling the occasion short. On the extreme, I can lose sight of the "reason for the season" altogether, but on most days, I find myself simply celebrating Jesus' birthday.

I believe that is an unfortunate, but all too common, mistake. Sure, we are celebrating His birthday, but even more than that, we are celebrating His arrival! We're celebrating the fulfillment of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies over the course of thousands of years.

Beginning in Genesis 3 when God promised a seed of man who would crush the serpent's head, God was working a plan of redemption and restoration. A way for sinful men to have the hope, peace, love, and joy He intended from the beginning. And it was finally here – in the form of a baby born to a virgin and a lowly stable.

So, as we close in on that day of celebration, slow down and take some time to reflect on what Jesus' birth brought us. It wasn't just the greatest man to ever live.

It was the fullness of God's immeasurable love.

In Christ,

**Brian Holtz, CEO**



# DAY ONE - Hope



**Romans 8:18-39 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”**

Based on this passage, how would you explain biblical hope and how it is different from how we commonly use the word in our culture today?

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In this passage, the Apostle Paul closely relates hope in the future with suffering in the present. Take a moment and list three things you are currently suffering through.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

For every suffering in life, God offers hope, although not always the way we ask. For each of your sufferings, what hope does Scripture offer. Be specific and support it with a specific verse or passage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

In light of the hope offered in Scripture, what specifically do you have hope for in your sufferings?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# DAY TWO - Peace

## ***Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”***

Although this Psalm never uses the word “peace,” it certainly communicates it. What are some of the specific phrases or images in this psalm which bring you a feeling of peace?

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How has God brought you a similar sense of peace in past challenges of life?

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What are some ways peace and hope are connected?

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What are five ways these peaceful phrases or images in this psalm apply to situations in your life now?

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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# DAY THREE - Love



**1 Corinthians 13 – “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.”**

In the first part of this passage (v. 1-3), the Apostle Paul focuses on the importance of love. In your own words, explain the importance of love in the Christian faith.

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The second part of this passage (v. 4-7) focuses on describing love in terms of what it is and is not. Which are you strongest at? Which are you weakest at?

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In the third section of this passage (v. 8-12), Paul offers some promises associated with love. What stands out to you about the persistence of love?

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In verse 13, Paul states that faith, hope, and love remain. “But the greatest of these is love.” Why do you believe he regards love as the greatest of these three?

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# DAY FOUR - Joy



***Philippians 4 – “Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.”***

In verse 1, the Apostle Paul refers to the church in Philippi as his “joy and crown.” What do you think he meant by this?

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In verses 4-6, Paul sets rejoicing in opposition to being anxious. Do you believe it’s possible to both rejoice and be anxious about something at the same time? Why or why not?

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In verse 13, Paul shifts from encouraging others to rejoice to writing about his own rejoicing. He explains that he rejoiced in their generosity, not that he needed or wanted the gift, but more in their care for his circumstances and their desire to support him. When have you had a similar joy in your life?

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What are five things that bring you joy?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# DAY FIVE - Christ

**John 1:1-18 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

As a follower of Jesus, how does His birth bring you hope?

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As a follower of Jesus, how does His birth bring you peace?

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As a follower of Jesus, how does His birth inspire love in your life?

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As a follower of Jesus, how does His birth bring you joy?

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