



# The Strength of Hope

(Reflections from the sermon on December 6, 2015)



**14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel [Immanuel means 'God with Us'].

**Isaiah 7:14 NIV**

Our expression of identity in Christ can get really confusing if we don't try and simplify it ourselves.

The Apostle Paul said this about the great triad; "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is Love" (1 Cor. 13:13). When we speak of our faith we often think of trust and assurance, confidence and even hope. So what do we think of when we say we have hope in Christ Jesus?

When we read the standard Biblical definition of faith in **Hebrews 11:1** we see "confidence and assurance in things hoped for and unseen." Can you separate hope from faith in the life of a believer?

What about having hope but no faith in Christ? What does hope without faith look like (Examples)?

I used a definition of hope in the message on Sunday that went like this; "Living hope is confident yearning for the promises of God." How would you reword this based on your personal experiences?

## The Strength of Hope – Advent 2

**Psalm 131:3** “Put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.”

In the following passages find the benefit of hope in the Lord that we can have now.

**Psalm 31:24**

**Psalm 33:18,20**

**Psalm 37:9,30-34**

**Psalm 130:5,7**

**Psalm 146:5 | Jeremiah 17:7**

**Psalm 147:**

**Isaiah 40:31**

*“And so, Lord, where do I put my Hope? My only hope is in You!”* **Psalm 39:7**