

## PRAYING WITH HOPE

Hope is the method and motivation by which we pray.

We pray with hope because:

- We know we are heard by God.
- We know we are loved by God.
- We know that God's answer will always be right.

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

### 3 Questions:

1. How would you explain what it means to pray with hope?
2. How does Jesus' coming at Christmas impact how we pray?
3. How does the Holy Spirit impact and empower our prayers?

# **GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY**

---

## **Romans 15:4-13**

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup> 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.

## **Luke 1:26-33**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."