



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

This text uses words that are often heard during the Advent season, especially as the Advent candles are lit each Sunday. This season of waiting for the birth of Jesus, challenges us to find hope and share peace, joy, and love.

Hope. Being in a state of hopefulness can be a huge challenge. Waiting for something different and better to happen in spite of all that's going on in the world is the essence of the Advent season. Perhaps this is one of the hardest times of the year to be hopeful. It is a season of busyness, grief, décor, and gatherings that require you to put on a happy face regardless of whatever is really going on in life. It seems that this season leaves no room for tears or pain and many may find themselves to be in hopeless situations. This song reminds us that our hope can be found in God, Who is coming to dwell among us.

Peace. In the midst of fights, wars, and prejudices, we are challenged to spread peace. How can we find peace in the midst of the Advent season? Once again we have to strive to be different from what is going on around us. Being peace bearers when everyone is looking out for their best interest, we quickly realize that this peace has to come from God. May we somehow find a way to spread it.

Joy. Everything leading up to Christmas suggests that we should be joyful. Never mind the fact that we are often stretched in many directions during this holiday season whether it's financial, relational, or emotional. How can joy be found in the midst of all that is going on? The year is about to wind down, and often joy is the emotion that comes to mind. Once again, the joy we can find is a holy joy as we anticipate the coming King.

Love. This is perhaps the hardest of all of these words. We try to do everything we can to keep from loving sometimes. We use words such as: like, tolerate, and respect, to avoid actually having to love. We either struggle to love or we make it some romantic word that is crocheted or on posters or plaques throughout our house. We make it a word that doesn't go as deep as it was intended. May we understand the deep love of God as we wait on the coming of the Savior.

As we try to be disciples in the world, during a season that is not given to waiting, may we share the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes from God.

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