



Christmas: The Moment That Changes Everything



A PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL FOR
YOUR ADVENT SEASON



PART 1 - HOPE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

HOW CAN I FIND HOPE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING?

How can I find hope that changes everything? A life without hope is a dark place, like standing in a long tunnel with no light at the end.

Yet, it's into this very darkness that God speaks. He offers us a hope that never fades—a hope stronger than our circumstances.

Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ lives in you, giving you the hope of sharing in His glory." (NLT)

The Bible assures us that true hope is found in Jesus Christ. This hope isn't a fleeting emotion or weak comfort but a living, unshakable assurance. Jesus doesn't just walk with us—He lives in us, offering a hope of glory that surpasses all our current challenges.

Without Jesus, emptiness remains. With Jesus, His light pierces through the darkness. His presence transforms hopeless situations into opportunities to experience His power and faithfulness.

An impactful example of this hope is seen in the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a theologian during World War II. Despite imprisonment and the looming prospect of death, Bonhoeffer wrote from his cell:

"This is the end—for me, the beginning of life." How could he hold onto such hope?

Bonhoeffer knew his hope wasn't rooted in this world but in a living relationship with Jesus Christ and the eternal life He promises. This hope carried him through his darkest hours,

giving him the strength to remain steadfast in the face of despair.

Bonhoeffer's example shows us that Jesus is the answer to the question: How can I find hope that changes everything? It isn't found in external circumstances but in Jesus Himself, who provides stability, perspective, and a living future.

HOW CAN THIS HOPE BECOME REAL TO ME?

To let the truth of Colossians 1:27 take root in your heart, try this meditation exercise:

1. FIND PEACE AND QUIET

2. READ THE VERSE SLOWLY

- "Christ lives in me—this gives me the hope of sharing in His glory."
- Repeat the verse several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

3. ASK JESUS

- "Jesus, what does it mean that You live in me?"
- "Where do You want to speak Your hope into my life today?"
- "How can You change my perspective on my current situation?"

4. REST IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- Write down anything Jesus speaks to you.

PRAYER FOR HOPE

Lord,
thank You for living in me and giving me hope. I'm grateful that You offer an unshakable hope in Jesus. You are the light in the darkness and my anchor when everything around me feels unstable.

Today, I bring to You all that weighs me down—my worries, fears, and hopeless situations. Please fill my heart with Your unshakable hope. Let this truth sink deeply into my heart and transform every area of my life.

Thank You that Your glory is part of my future. Help me to not only know this hope but to live it out daily. Show me how to share this hope so that others can see Your living hope too.

I trust that You are always with me and that my life is in Your hands. Your hope is my firm foundation, In Jesus' name,
Amen.





PART 2 - PEACE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

HOW CAN I FIND PEACE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING?

In uncertain times, when worries and fears dominate our thoughts, we often feel like we're caught in a storm without a safe anchor. Trying to keep everything under control on our own can be overwhelming, leaving the peace we seek feeling out of reach.

Yet, the Bible reveals a peace that is not dependent on our circumstances—a peace that surpasses all understanding. In Philippians 4:6-7, we read:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus is the source of this deep, unshakable peace. Instead of being trapped in worry, he invites us to bring our burdens to him. In prayer, we can lay down everything that weighs on us, trusting him to care for us. This trust creates space for a peace that doesn't come from the world but directly from God. The peace Jesus gives doesn't just change our outward circumstances but transforms our inner being. It guards our hearts and minds, even when the storms around us rage on. A powerful example of this peace is found in the Bible when Jesus was in a boat with his disciples during a storm on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 4:35-41). While the disciples panicked, fearing for their lives, Jesus slept peacefully. When they woke him, Jesus calmed the storm with the words: “Quiet! Be still!” The waves

subsided, and the wind stopped. Then Jesus asked his disciples: “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

This story shows us that Jesus not only has the power to calm external storms but also the internal storms in our hearts. The peace he offers is not tied to our circumstances but rooted in our relationship with him.

HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE PEACE IN TIMES OF RESTLESSNESS?

A simple yet effective way to feel peace in your heart is through breath prayer. Find a quiet place where you won't be disturbed, and follow these steps:

1. BREATHE IN DEEPLY

and think the words: “Jesus, I trust you.”

2. EXHALE SLOWLY

and think: “Grant me your peace.”

3. REPEAT

this breath prayer for a few minutes, consciously letting go of your worries and inviting Jesus' peace into your heart.

If your thoughts begin to wander, gently bring them back to the words of the prayer. Allow yourself to be filled with God's presence and feel a deep sense of peace spreading within you.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord,

I thank You for giving us a peace that surpasses all understanding. You see the worries and fears that weigh on me, and I bring them before You now.

I ask You to fill my heart with Your peace. Help me to trust You and let go of what I cannot control. Let me find rest in my connection to You, even when circumstances remain uncertain. Thank You for guarding my heart and mind and for the peace You give that is stronger than any storm. Help me to be a messenger of Your peace to others as well.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.





PART 3 – PURPOSE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

HOW DO I FIND A PURPOSE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING?

In a world filled with endless possibilities, many of us long for a purpose that transcends uncertainty and instability—a purpose and identity anchored on a firm foundation that remains steadfast even when life shakes us. But how do we discover this life-changing purpose?

The answer lies in Jesus Christ. Even before the creation of the world, God chose us to belong to Him and live in His presence. In Ephesians 1:4-5, we read:

“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” (NLT)

God’s purpose for us is to live as members of His family, as His children. Our true purpose is found in relationship with Him, and it is not determined by changing circumstances, emotions, or the opinions of others. When we live out this purpose, we find the meaning our hearts have been longing for.

An example of discovering purpose in God is the story of Moses. Raised as a prince of Egypt, Moses enjoyed wealth and power but experienced deep inner turmoil. Though he felt connected to the people of Israel, he was not fully accepted by them. After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled to the wilderness,

spending years as a shepherd.

Everything changed when Moses encountered God in the burning bush. In Exodus 3:10-12, God says to him:

“Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt!” Moses, feeling inadequate, questioned why God would call him. But God reassured him, saying, “I will be with you.”

Moses discovered his true purpose when he realized it wasn’t about his abilities, knowledge, or experiences—it was about God’s calling and the promise of His presence. Moses’ identity was no longer tied to his earthly status or power but to his role as God’s servant.

Just as Moses learned, purpose is often not found in external circumstances or human logic but through encountering God’s plan for our lives. His calling can pull us out of our comfort zones and lead us to a higher purpose far greater than anything we could imagine.

Just like Moses, we have been chosen by God to live as His children and serve Him wherever He places us, using the gifts He has given us. Our purpose is not defined by outward success but by our connection to Him.

HOW CAN I DISCOVER MY PERSONAL CALLING?

The Bible describes us as members of the body of Christ, each with a unique calling and role. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, it becomes clear that each of us has a special place in the body, one that no one else can fill. To practically experience this truth and better understand your calling, you can follow this exercise:

1. FIND STILLNESS

- Choose a quiet place free from distractions.
- Ask Jesus to speak to you in this moment.

2. READ THE SCRIPTURE ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (...) Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

3. ASK JESUS

Imagine yourself as a part of the body—a vital piece with a specific role—and ask God to show you:

“Jesus, what part of your body am I?”

“What role do you have for me in your plan?”

4. LISTEN AND WRITE DOWN IMPRESSIONS

- Write down everything that comes to mind, even if it seems unclear at first. He may show you an image of a hand, an eye, or another part of the body—or give you a sense of the calling He has for you.
- You can trust that God speaks to you through thoughts, images, words, or feelings but it can be wise to share what you feel God is saying with a leader.
- To further recognize your calling, consider these three reflective questions:
 1. What moves me? (What am I passionate about? What breaks my heart?)
 2. What do I have in my hand? (What gifts or talents do I possess?)
 3. Where has God placed me?
- Finally, ask Jesus to show you how, where you are, with what you have, you can embrace and live out your calling.

PRAYER FOR YOUR CALLING

Lord,

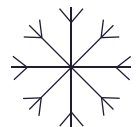
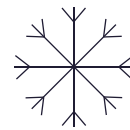
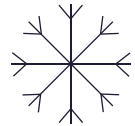
Thank you for choosing me to be your child. Thank you for the identity I find in you and for creating me as an indispensable part of your body with a special purpose.

Show me where my place is in the body of Christ and how I can fulfill my role. I am grateful that you have given me a unique calling and that you see me not only as part of your family but also as an important part of your church.

Help me to live as your child in my daily life and within the church, faithfully pursuing my calling. May your love guide me and encourage me to grow in service to you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.





PART 4 - LOVE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

HOW CAN I FIND LOVE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING?

Many of us long for true love—love that makes no demands, is unconditional, and embraces us in our weakness. Yet the reality we encounter can feel far from this ideal and the world we live in is often marked by conditions, expectations and performance. Our deepest desire is to be truly loved—without any “ifs” or “buts.”

The answer to this longing is found in Jesus. In 1 John 4:10, we read:

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (NIV)

These words reveal a love that changes everything. They show us that true love is not based on what we have “earned” but on the fact that God loves us unconditionally, simply because he loves us—even before we ever loved him.

God’s love is revolutionary because it knows no conditions. It doesn’t depend on our perfection or efforts to deserve it. It comes to us just as we are. This is the true love that transforms our lives and enables us to change.

A moving example of this unconditional love is found in the story of Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples. After Peter denied Jesus three times, he met Jesus again at the Sea of Galilee. Instead of condemning him, Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love me?” (John 21:15-17).

Peter, deeply moved, answered “Yes” each time, and in response, Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

This encounter is a powerful demonstration of Jesus’ unconditional love. For each time Peter had failed, Jesus gave him the chance of reconciliation and recommitment. This love freed Peter from his shame and failure and restored him to the calling Jesus had for his life. In the same way, Jesus loves us and invites us to love Him, even when we fail or feel weak. His love expects nothing - it is always present, always unconditional. It is His love that gives us the strength to return to him each time we fall and embrace the grace that transforms us.

REFLECT AND PRACTICE RECEIVING GOD’S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE:

1. BE STILL

- Breathe deeply in and out.
- Be fully present with God.
- Remember that you are loved—not because you are perfect, but because God’s love is perfect.

2. READ JOHN 4:10

Read the verse again and let the truth sink in: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

- Reflect on the meaning of these words.
- What does it mean that God loved you first?

3. ASK JESUS: “HOW DO I EXPERIENCE YOUR UNCONDITIONAL LOVE?” BEDINGUNGSLOSE LIEBE?“

- Consider what thoughts come to mind.
- Ask Him to remind you of a special experience when you felt His love most strongly.

4. WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS

- Write down what you’ve discovered about God’s unconditional love.
- How can you experience it more deeply each day?

PRAYER FOR LOVE

Dear Father,
I thank You that You loved me first—not because I deserved it, but because You see me with Your infinite love. You love me as I am, without me having to earn it. Thank You that You accept me unconditionally and do not count my mistakes or weaknesses. Help me to receive this love and reflect it in my life. I open my heart to Your love and ask You to show me how I can share this love in my relationships. Let me grow in Your love and be a testimony of Your unconditional love in the world. In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

