

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



Quotable

*Hope is a sense of
confidence that God
is at work.*

*It has nothing to do
with age, marital
status, or experience
from the past. It
has everything to do
with the living God.*

— Charles R. Swindoll

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, we knelt beside Mary and Joseph at the manger and joined their adoration of God's gift to the world. We imagined eternity in the eyes of the Christ child, who "existed in the beginning with God" (John 1:2). We recognized Jesus as the embodiment of "the very character of God" (Hebrews 1:3), in whom we saw:

- Grace—divine favor toward undeserving humankind
- Truth—reliable principles for living
- Love—infinite compassion for sinners
- Hope—resilient confidence in a certain future

Soon, we'll take down the tree, tuck away the twinkling lights, and box up the nativity set. And yet, while the figurine in the manger may return to storage, God's gift of Jesus—a gift "too wonderful for words" (2 Corinthians 9:15)—remains in our hearts.

As we anticipate the New Year, we'll focus on Jesus as the gift of God's hope by examining three principles hidden in three Hebrew words for *hope*; these principles will carry us through whatever unknown lies just around the bend.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

To prepare your heart today, read a verse we introduced in the study on Day 10.

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
(Jeremiah 29:11)



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY

As you pray before opening the Word, thank the Lord for His plans for the coming year. In the space below, express any concerns you may have about your future, and ask the Lord to help you fully embrace God's hope in Jesus.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Because God is all-knowing, He is fully aware of every hill or valley, twist or turn in your life's journey. And because He is all-powerful, He can carry us through whatever rough roads stretch just beyond the horizon. God "gives power to the weak," Isaiah assured us (Isaiah 40:29), and then the prophet described what happens when we wait for Him.

*Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary. (Isaiah 40:31 NASB)*

Let's use the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method of observation to identify in this verse the first aspect of hope which is highlighted in the word *wait*.



Observation: What Do Hopeful People Do?

Wait is the verb form of the Hebrew word, *qavah*, which, interestingly, is translated "hope" in Jeremiah 29:11—God's plans "give us a future and a *hope*." There is an apparent connection between hoping and waiting. What do hopeful people do? They wait for the Lord.

According to Isaiah 40:31, what does the Lord do for us through our period of waiting?



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

What else do hopeful people do? We need look no further than Job, a man of resilient hope. Job declared,

*“Though He slay me,
I will hope in Him.” (Job 13:15 NASB)*

This Hebrew word translated “hope” is *yachal*, which Job expressed through his determination to endure. Specifically, Job kept on hoping even through the worst of his suffering. What does James 5:10–11 tell us about the outcome of Job’s enduring hope?

We observe a third aspect of hope in the Hebrew word translated “confident” in Psalm 27:3.

*Though a mighty army surrounds me,
my heart will not be afraid.
Even if I am attacked,
I will remain confident.*

The word translated “confident” is *batach* in Hebrew, which describes an attitude of trust amid threatening circumstances—so that the psalmist can say, “my heart will not be afraid.”

So people who put their hope in the Lord, first, wait for Him, second, endure through trials, and third, trust the Lord for their future.



Interpretation and Correlation: What Principles Can We Understand?

Let’s interpret what we’ve observed by formulating principles, which are timeless truths that summarize the meaning of a passage. Think of principles as bridges of truth from the past to the present. In his message, Chuck Swindoll gathered from these verses three requirements of hope and three results, which he formulated into principles.

- Hope requires waiting, which strengthens us.
- Hope requires enduring, which brings patience.
- Hope requires trusting, which results in relief.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

Now you try. Look back at the verses you just read and formulate a principle that emerges from each Hebrew word we highlighted.

Isaiah 40:31

Principle about waiting:

Job 13:15

Principle about enduring:

Psalms 27:3

Principle about trusting:



Application: How Can We Apply God's Gift of Hope This Coming Year?

Often our tendency when we feel stress is to worry about the future rather than hope in the Lord. Instead of appreciating God's strength as we wait, we *rush* ahead and feel worn out. Instead of growing in patience as we endure, we *complain* and feel irritable during delays. And instead of experiencing the relief of trusting that God will handle our situation, we *push* for results only to feel defeated.

What circumstances or people are causing you stress or filling your heart with worry?



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S12
4

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY

Stress and worries could have weighed down Jesus, but He placed His hope in His Father—and His hope is available to us today. In a concluding prayer, tell the Lord that you put your hope in Him. Reflect on the stresses and worries in your life, and use the following space to express your thoughts to the Lord. Specifically, write down how you intend to wait, endure, and trust instead of rush, complain, and push.

Let Chuck's concluding words in his message guide your week:

Every day we have a choice. . . . Each day could be a day in which your imagination will go to work, take charge of you, rule your life, and fill you with fear. Or you could say, "Lord, these hours are unlived. I have no clue what they will include, but I want You to know I'm Yours. I'm trusting You, and I will walk with You. I will rely on You."

May this prayer from Paul be your guiding verse for the new year. Receive God's gift of hope in Jesus, and truly put your confidence in Him!

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13).



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, right now, as I step into the New Year, I release all my fears to You. You are strong and powerful, full of grace, truth, and love. Help me face whatever challenges may come with "confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." Fill me with Yourself through Your Son, Jesus, and it is in His name I pray, amen.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

S12
5

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Hope

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

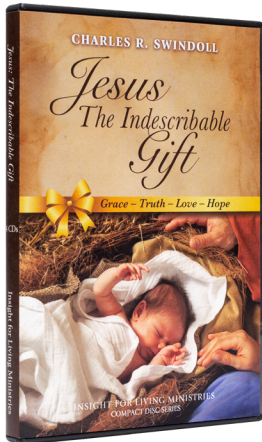
Romans 4:18–24; 8:24–25; 15:13

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

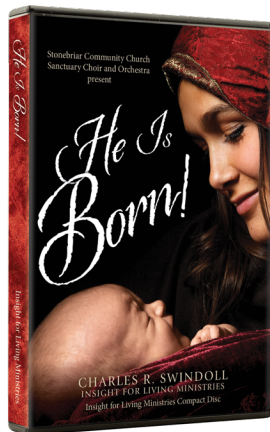
STUDY



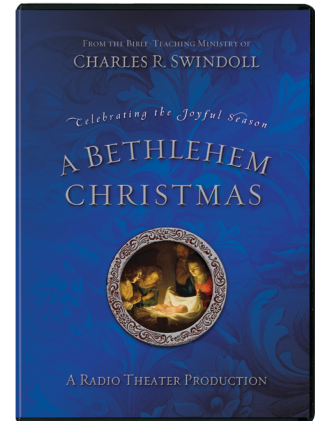
Tools for Digging Deeper



Jesus: The Indescribable Gift
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



He Is Born
by Stonebriar Community Church
Choir and Orchestra
compact disc



**A Bethlehem Christmas:
Celebrating the Joyful Season
(A Radio Theater Production)**
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
compact disc

For these and related resources, visit www.insightworld.org/store
or call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA +61 3 9762 6613 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK +44 1306 640156

For the 2018 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



www.insight.org | www.insightworld.org

Copyright © 2017, 2018 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide.
Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.
Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application