

WHEN GOD STEPS IN

Christ in Our Hopes

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1-3)

¹⁴**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Fueled forward . . .

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1 NASB)

Hope killers . . .

- Disillusionment with life
- Frustration with ourselves
- Bitterness towards God
- Trials of waiting
- Prayers being unanswered
- Abuse by others
- Risks that failed
- Effects of exhaustion
- Caving to cynicism
- Loss of vision

¹⁴**The Word became flesh . . .**
(John 1:14a)

Hope the first time . . .

- Two people: Simeon and Anna

²⁸*Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

²⁹*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

³⁰*For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

³¹*which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*

³²*a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”*

(Luke 2:28-32)

³⁸*Coming up to them at that very moment, she [Anna] gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:38)*

Hope the second time . . .

Luke 21:25-28

¹¹*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.*

¹²*It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the **blessed hope**—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)*

⁴*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the **hope** of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)*