

## Day 18

### Real Faith

***“May 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***

These words remind us about the importance of faith. Advent is about eagerly anticipating what is coming; yet it is rooted in what has already come. We can trust that God’s promise of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ is truly free and is for us. And because God gives us Christ’s forgiveness and salvation through faith, He is called the “God of hope.”

This Advent we may eagerly anticipate celebrating Jesus’ birth, but the celebration itself should not be what fills us with joy and peace. What fills us with God’s joy is that our Savior has already come and has won our salvation, and that He is coming again to bring our salvation to its ultimate fulfillment. Until Jesus comes back for His second (final) coming, we live by faith through an extended Advent season. We trust that just as God has kept His promise in Christ’s first Advent, so He will also keep His promise of a glorious reunion with Jesus. This faith is what fills us with joy and peace as we hope for Christ’s coming. Because God is trustworthy, our hope is absolutely certain and true; therefore we are filled with joy and peace... right now.

#### *Prayer*

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for bringing joy to the world. May I delight in the peace that comes through the forgiveness of my sins. Amen.

#### *Ponder*

Write in your journal the words joy, peace and hope. Make a list of the things that bring you joy, peace and hope.

#### **Worship Video**

Joy to the World

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-8i\\_N-theK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-8i_N-theK)

#### **Christmas Story**

[Luke 2:19-20](#)

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

#### **Bible Verse**

[Luke 2:19](#)

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.