When God Moves

Advent: Choose Hope

World Outreach Church Sermon Discussion Guide Sunday Sermon: **November 30, 2025**



Advent season has begun, and during these four weeks preceding Christmas Day, we wait to celebrate Jesus' birth in a manger and anticipate His second arrival as our King. We don't want to sweep past this period of preparation because it's an important opportunity to understand why we celebrate Christmas. This first Advent week is a reminder of "hope"—a hope we must *choose*—and we have great reason to hope because God is moving in the earth in some amazing ways, with outcomes that cannot be explained any other way. For instance, our faith has been diminished in the public square for decades, with no prayers in schools, no Ten Commandments on the walls, and no nativity scenes in the public square. Those mandates are now being reversed, and it gives us reason to hope. But we need to understand that when God begins to move, He takes us to a different place—a new place that will change our future. He doesn't take us back to something we knew before. The question is whether we have the courage to move forward with Him. Church, we want to keep growing in our faith and not miss the amazing arrival of God with us! Let's be determined to look for and recognize God moving in the earth, consistently choose hope, and be determined to move forward with God!

God Is Moving ... "Tell Me What You See"

When God Moves

- 1. Outcomes which cannot be achieved alone/apart from God...people who reject God will reject this conclusion
- 2. Discontinuity...future different from past
- 3. Often uncomfortable...nature of the assignment
- 4. Often difficult to imagine God is involved
 - Frequently, there are expressions of evil
 - Opposition to God's objectives is visible
- 5. God works in and through people

Share a time when you sensed God calling you to surrender or take a step forward, but you were reluctant to move with God.

I. GUARD YOUR HEART

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will trust in you.

Psalm 119:81 ... I have put my hope in your word.

Luke 2:16-19 ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But **Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart**.

Identify one area where you've struggled to align your heart with God's truth. What fears or doubts have held you back from following God's Word and His leading?

II. SOMEONE HOPING IS A POWERFUL THING!

A. Hoping & Waiting—Related Because Hope Is Connected to Your Future

Psalms 31:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalms 27:14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here." —Dante, The Inferno

How would you define hope? How can someone cultivate hope? When has hope sustained you through a difficult season?

B. Well-Placed Hope (Hope Locations)

Psalms 119:114 You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.

Psalms 33:20-21 ²⁰ **We wait in hope for the Lord**; he is our help and our shield. ²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, **for we trust in his holy name**.

Psalms 147:10-11 ¹⁰ His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; ¹¹ the Lord delights in those who fear him, **who put their hope in his unfailing love.**

God "delights" in those who put their hope in Him. What areas of life tend to distract you from delighting in God? What's one step you can take to make delighting God a priority today?

C. Misplaced Hope

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, **but to put their hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Proverbs 11:7 When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.

D. Hope Abandoned (A Gradual Process)

Acts 27:20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, **we finally gave up all hope** of being saved.

Luke 24:20-21 ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ **but we had hoped** that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

When have you put hope in something or someone other than God? How did that experience impact your faith?

E. Response of Hope—Rejoice

Romans 5:2-5 ² And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ **And hope does not disappoint us**, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 12:12-13 ¹² **Be joyful in hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Name one way can you choose to rejoice in hope this week.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word and its truth. We pray for each other and those who have lost hope. Grant them a revelation of You and give them understanding hearts to hear Your Word, so hope might grow again. Forgive us for not guarding our hearts and allowing them to be filled with diminishing ambitions. Replace them with a heart and ambition for You as never before—a longing for Your presence and an awareness of what You're doing in the earth. Our strength is limited, and we need Your help for our challenges. You are Almighty God, and we invite You into our homes, relationships, and resources. We serve at Your pleasure. Help us use the time and energy entrusted to us for Your glory. May our hope truly be anchored in You, confident that our future is secured by Your power, purposes, and watchful care. In Jesus' name, amen.