

Daily Devotion For December 4, 2021

May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

This week, in my daily devotions I mentioned the passing of a good friend, Ron Fukuoka as well as the sudden massive heart attack of Helen Nakano's daughter Susan. We turn on the news and hear of the new Omicron variant, the high inflation rates, and even on the streets of Monterey, I see more and more homelessness.

In Romans 15:13 the apostle Paul spoke of the **God of hope**. The first advent candle that was lit on Sunday was the **candle of hope!** That is what the world needs today in the midst of so much sorrow, suffering and pain. Is **hope in God** something that thrills you? In the Christmas Carol, O Holy Night, the writer penned these words, "**A thrill of hope**; the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

Children get excited at the coming of the season and we might feel a bit of a excitement as well. But sometimes work and the extra-curricular things of the season can rob us of joy. Some may even get the Holiday Blues!

So if Christ's coming into this world offers hope, and hope, as the song says, provides a thrill, how do we find that experience amid the distraction of December? Well, that's the wonderful thing about Hope. Just as total darkness can't hold back the light of a tiny flame, so even the smallest increment of Hope can provide joy, meaning, and purpose.

**Thought For Today:** Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the assurance of things **hoped** for the evidence of things not seen." How can a growing faith lead to greater hope, joy and purpose in your life?

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Thank God for the **hope** that we have through God's gift to us in Christ Jesus. Deo Volente!