

## The Ultimate Power 'Trip'

- *"No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, on those whose hope is in His unfailing love, to deliver them from death... We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield." Psalm 33:16-20*

### A. FOUNDATIONAL HOPES:

- 1) I can hope in me:
    - a) *"Though the pride of the godless person reaches to the heavens and his head touches the clouds he will perish forever, like his own dung; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'... Surely he will have no respite from his craving; he cannot save himself by his treasure." Job 20:6-7, 20*
  - 2) I can hope in the Lord.
    - a) *"But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death... We wait in hope for the LORD..." Psalm 33:18-20*
  - 3) Resumé values vs. Eulogy values
    - a) *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*
- *"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.." Luke 2:1*
  - *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him." "He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, 'Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?' 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they said," Matthew 2:1-5a*
  - *"Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'" Matthew 2: 7-8*
  - *"And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route." Matthew 2:12*
  - *"Herod was furious when he learned that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance." Matthew 2:16*
  - *"After Herod died...." Matthew 2:19*

- *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that shall be to all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ, the Lord.”* Luke 2:10-11,
- *“You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:21

## **B. IF WE HAVE HOPE...**

- 1) *“We can be renewed.*
  - a) *“This I call to mind and therefore I have hope. Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning...”* Lamentations 3:21-23
  - b) *Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”* Isaiah 40:31
- 2) *We can live with...\_\_\_\_\_.* (Fill in the blank from your own life)
  - a) *“We had great burdens that were beyond our own strength. We even gave up the hope of living....But this happened so we would trust not in ourselves but in God.”* 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 NCV
- 3) *We can go on* – our future is assured.
  - a) *“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.”* 1 Peter 1:6
- 4) *We can say no.*
  - a) *“All who have this hope in Him (Christ) purify themselves just as He is pure.”* 1 John 3:3
- 5) *We can wait.*
  - a) *“Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him.”* Psalm 62:5

## **C. CHRISTIAN HOPE:**

- 1) *Is the confident expectation that God is willing and able to fulfill the promises that He has made to you.*
  - a) *“In His (God’s) great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you.”* 1 Peter 1:3-4
  - b) *“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul firm and secure.”* Hebrews 6:19
- 2) He is the Lord and He is our hope through every day our life, and he'll be with us through death. Death, itself, will not be the end of me. It will, in fact, be the beginning of real life forever with our Lord and Saviour. This is Christian hope – this is the power of Christmas in us.