



THE PASTOR'S PEN

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Hope

It is the Christmas Season, New Year's and all around us there are events taking place that gives cause for depression, heartache, disappointment, and anxiety. It is very difficult to focus on that which is positive and encouraging to us. I offer you a gift for the New Year, Hope.

Hope is a gift. Have you ever taken hold of such a prize that leads you out of uncertainty into profound assurance? If so, you have possessed hope. When hope arrives, despair departs.

Hope is the breath of nature that surrounds us everyday.

Hope is a sprig that shoots up from the crevasse of a sun dried rock, providing waters of life within. Hope sustains us.

Hope is the first ray of sunshine that peaks above the horizon - without fail -every morning with blazing truth, telling us we can make it through. Hope brings us Peace.

Hope is dispatched when the moon rises in the dark night, foreshadowing that a new day will dawn. Hope brings us Promise.

Hope swells within a sea weary drifter when he spots a distant speck of a ship that grows larger with each passing wave. Hope Perseveres.

Hope headlines commencement addresses, inspiring graduates as they embark on the new life that lies ahead, as they step out on the pathway strewn with possibilities. Hope Persuades.

Have you glimpsed the glow of Hope? Strike a match and burn a candle. You will discover that the whisper of its flame brings life to a room, making the candle useful. Is your flame of hope alive and making a difference in the world? You see, Hope Pierces the Darkness.

Hope is the absolute assurance that there is life after death. For those who have lost loved ones and we all have - Hope Brings Comfort to our aching souls.

Hope removes fear. Hope restores faith.

The Baby born is not here, but is risen - **Have Hope!**

God's Blessings for a Wonderful New Year!

Paul