

## *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

In his great passage of the Holy Spirit's gifting of God's people, the apostle Paul brings the whole issue into sharp focus by concluding, "these three remain: faith, hope and love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Hope is included as one of the ever enduring gifts that God gives us for daily living. This is not a Christmas wish list (even though those are fun to compose and to dream about) but a real living vision of what the future could be.

Old Testament visionaries longed for the day that the hope of a strong kingdom in God's name would be established. They ached for the promised Messiah who would deliver their people from the shame and pain that years of captivity and outside rule had forced upon them.

God's love was no longer felt and even the most optimistic of them cried out for God's deliverance. Their pain was real. Their hope was not realized within their own lifetime. To some, it seems that they wasted their efforts.

So, why hope? Why take the chance of dreaming about things that may never come to pass? Why make yourself that vulnerable?

Interestingly enough, the ability to hope seems very much to be part of us. We all long to better our circumstances and situations. Where we are seems to be in need of improvement. It is said that even John Wesley recognized that a person without a desire to become better than the present probably had less than a healthy outlook upon life, spiritual matters, and their relationship with God.

To look forward, to dream, to seek to improve one's self, one's world, one's future. Don't give up. With God, all things are possible. Even your hopes!

~ Joe Hittle  
Ottumwa, Iowa, USA

*Heavenly Father,  
Don't let us give up. Not on You, not on ourselves, not on our friends, our churches, or our families. You set the tone in this determination to reconcile Your creation to Yourself. You have never given up. You not only paid the great price of Jesus' life and reputation, You continue to move amongst us in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us KNOW that power and His comfort and never-ending presence. May our hopes come alive in YOU! Amen!*



### *Do You Hear What I Hear?*

*Said the night wind to the little lamb,  
do you see what I see  
Way up in the sky, little lamb,  
do you see what I see  
A star, a star, dancing in the night  
With a tail as big as a kite  
With a tail as big as a kite*

*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,  
do you hear what I hear  
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,  
do you hear what I hear  
A song, a song, high above the trees  
With a voice as big as the sea  
With a voice as big as the sea*

*Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,  
do you know what I know  
In your palace warm, mighty king,  
do you know what I know  
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold  
Let us bring Him silver and gold  
Let us bring Him silver and gold*

*Said the king to the people everywhere,  
listen to what I say  
Pray for peace, people everywhere!  
listen to what I say  
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night  
He will bring us goodness and light  
He will bring us goodness and light*