

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS
"All I Want For Christmas Is...HOPE" - Part 1 of 5
November 26, 2017

"Jesus said, I have come as a Light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer wander in darkness." John 12:46 (LB)

1. EVERYONE HAS DARK DAYS

* **Dark Days of DISAPPOINTMENT**

*"I hoped for happiness and light, but trouble and darkness came instead."
Job 30:26 (GN)*

* **Dark Days of DISTRESS**

*"I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come."
Psalm 22:1b (GN)*

* **Dark Days of DOUBT**

*"The one who walks in the dark does not know where he is going."
John 12:35b (GN)*

* **Dark Days of DEPRESSION**

"The thought of my pain... is bitter poison. I think of it constantly, and my spirit is depressed." Lamentations 3:19-20 (GN)

"Lover, friend, acquaintance - all are gone. There is only darkness everywhere." Psalm 88:18 (LB)

Antidote:

"You, Lord, are my light; you dispel my darkness!" 2 Samuel 22:29 (GN)

2. HOW CAN JESUS DISPEL MY DARKNESS?

A. He will ENCOURAGE me when I'm disappointed.

"The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope." Psalm 34:18 (GN)

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)*

B. He will STRENGTHEN me when I'm distressed.

"I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me - I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me." Philippians 4:13 (AmpC)

"Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me." Psalm 23:4 (GN)

C. He will GUIDE me when I'm doubtful

*"Jesus said, I am the Light of the world. So if you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path."
John 8:12 (LB)*

"Your words are a flashlight to light the path ahead of me and keep me from stumbling." Psalm 119:105 (LB)

D. He will CHANGE me when I'm depressed.

*"It is possible for light to turn the thing it shines upon into light also!"
Ephesians 5:13 (Ph)*

"The light produces in people...all that is wholesome and good and true." Ephesians 5:9 (Ph)

"... the darkness in our lives disappears and the new light of life in Christ shines in." 1 John 2:8b (LB)