



| Friday, December 13

Hope in Times of Darkness

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

Genesis 1:11

Late summer and early fall are my favorite times of the year. I had the privilege of growing up on a livestock and small grain farm in Northwest Minnesota and that time of year could be summed up in one word—harvest.

In the spring, the soil was tilled and prepared and the seeds were planted. Once planted, we would wait and hope for timely rains, sufficient sunshine, and enough growing days for the crops to reach full maturity and ripen. Once ripe, the harvest would begin. Those were always long days spent in the combine and driving truck; however, they are some of the best memories of my years on the farm.

Reaping the reward of God's abundant sunshine and rain and storing the crops to feed the livestock brought a sense of satisfaction and thankfulness. Once again God had provided for our family and our livestock.

But there were also years that Mother Nature did not provide the needed rains, or severe weather destroyed the crops. It would have been easy to give up and choose a different life, but we persevered with faith and would start the cycle over again the following spring.

Sometimes our lives are like this as well. There are times we ask God to answer our prayers and it doesn't happen. But as was life on the farm, we cannot lose faith and hope, because God does have a plan for each one of us. Let us continue to have hope during those times of darkness and thank God each and every day for his wonderful creation.

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Heavenly Father, thank you for your many gifts of creation and new life. Help us to open our eyes and hearts, to receive the daily blessings you bestow on us. When we lose hope, remind us that you are always walking beside us. Prepare our hearts during this season of Advent, for the coming of your son. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

- Jane Knott