



| **Thursday, December 20**

Rest in Hope

I will find my rest in God alone. He is the One who gives me hope."

Psalm 62:5

As I sit in a chair at the University of Cincinnati, receiving my 34th infusion, I cannot help but feel hopeful. I am continually surrounded by people who are fighting for their lives but are consistently and constantly filled with hope. I remember Gary, a cancer patient whom I met on my very first infusion. He was a pancreatic cancer patient who was in his 3rd year fighting this disease. As he started to lose his battle he never lost hope. Although he had hope that his cancer would be cured he always had a reassuring hope that if he wasn't cured he would go to be with the Lord. I gave Gary a birthday card with a cross bookmark for his 56th and last birthday. It was a small gesture but to Gary it meant everything. I remember him saying as I turned to leave his room, "Sometimes hope is all we have". Gary demonstrated Paul's words in Romans 5:4: "The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope."

During this time of Advent, hope is even more apparent with the impending celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. He came into the world so that we may have the hope of eternal life with him. Advent reminds us once again of the promise God made about our salvation. This promise is the true hope beyond any other hope we have. During this Advent season, let us be more encouraged than ever before by our faith that the hope we are striving for each and every day lies in the promise of eternal life with Christ Jesus!

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time of Advent—the time for all of us to embrace hope. Let us slow down our busy lives to enjoy this season of preparation for the birth of our Savior. Let those who are fighting for their very own lives be encouraged by the hope of eternal life with you Lord God. Sometimes hope is all we have. All this we pray in your name. Amen.

- Craig Ahlin