

I love winter. Well, I should add that I love winter when I can sit at my dining table, cup of coffee in hand, and stare out the window watching the birds flutter back and forth to the feeder. It is a peaceful time. The rush of the holidays is over and although there are always things to do, I am enjoying this time of quiet.

I have read my morning devotional and now I sit here, reflecting on the wonderful world I am living in. I am so thankful for the warm house, plenty of food, the love of family, and living in the greatest country in the world. How could I not be thankful? I am praising God from the top of the world, and then I am reminded of Job, who in his despair said, "Where then is my hope? Can anyone find it?" (Job 17:15)

I asked myself if my hope lies in all my husband and I have accomplished. Are we taking credit for how things have turned out for us? Are we trusting God with our whole lives and especially with the uncertainty of tomorrow?

It is easy to praise God when things are going how we want them to be. However, what if the stock market crashed? What if our country entered another war? What if our health failed and now is not aligning with our retirement plans? What are God's plans for us?

Our hope is not in the US government or the smart guys on Wall Street. Our hope is in the Lord who controls our future.

We all need to take time to sit back and reflect on our lives. We need that quiet time – when God can speak to us. Where does God stand in your life? Are you walking with Him daily, telling Him you love Him, and thanking Him for the gift of His Son, Jesus? It is during these quiet times when God gives us His peace. It is when He tells us, "Fear not, for I am with you."

*"Heavenly Father, in this world of uncertainty, please remind us that our hope is truly in You and not in anything we have accomplished during our short time on this earth. Help us to set aside quiet times so we can hear Your voice. Speak to us in our silence."*

I would also like to ask every unit or unit member to submit a favorite prayer, story, song, or picture that will be compiled for a Department Prayer book. The more submissions, the better the book. I would love to hear from you.

Rose Laning