

ADVENT DEVOTION: DECEMBER 5, 2022
1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11
THRILL OF THE UNKNOWN

Do you know that feeling you get on a roller coaster ride? It's such a mix of emotions. The anticipation as you see the ride for the first time. The anxiety that builds as you wait in line. The comfort you get as you buckle in and the attendant completes a safety check. And finally the slow ascensions followed by the rush of the ups and downs. It's thrilling.

Today's text from 1 Thessalonians is a reminder that many parts of our lives often feel like different parts of that thrilling roller coaster ride. Sure there are the obvious ups and downs, but it's more than that. There are emotions, often big emotions that accompany every stage of our lives. Excitement, curiosity, anxiety, hope, fear, and comfort are all part of everyday life. It's ok to have all of those emotions.

When thinking about Advent and the anticipation of the coming of Christ, I feel all of these emotions. I'm excited to see how it happens. I'm curious to know when it will happen. I have anxiety about doing enough before it happens. I have hope that God's will will be final. I have fear of these unknowns. But most of all, I have comfort in knowing God's grace will be complete in the coming of Jesus Christ.

CHALLENGE:

Where are you emotionally this season? Take time today to recognize and feel the emotion of the day. Acknowledge and accept the emotions of the season.

PRAYER:

God of comfort,
Thank you for the security you provide in a world full of ups and downs. Forgive us for when we try to make our own way. And help us to find peace in the unknown.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

~Janie Bruce