



REFLECTIONS

August 23, 2020, adapted from *To Be Jiminy Cricket*, January 29, 2006

**Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.**

Psalms 31:24

Jiminy Cricket

When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are... Now don't those words from Disney's Academy Award winning song send its warm melody straight to your heart. The children's story of *Pinocchio* plays the heartstrings of hope into the depths of a father's love. Lessons from the story flourish from the narration of a conscience-like character named Jiminy Cricket when he suggested a prayer-like idea. It's enough to give one pause.

Wishes express desires. We all have them. We wish to be taller, or thinner, or better looking, or for talents we don't have. Usually though, wishes carry little expectation of coming true. So when a puppet maker named Geppetto wished for his puppet he named *Pinocchio* to become a real boy, Jiminy Cricket's suggestion added something extra—Hope.

Hope offers possibility or expectation not common to wishes. Expectation counters despair. Just as cold is the absence of heat, and darkness the absence of light, despair is the absence of hope. Jiminy Cricket cited no Bible verse, but he turned a wish into hope. Magi followed a star to find Jesus, the promised Messiah. In him hope abounds. And it makes no difference who you are, wishes that lead through Christ Jesus can come true. They did for Geppetto.

And they came true for Pinocchio too.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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