Life in the Spirit 2018

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Overflowing Hope

By the Power of The Holy Spirit

***Romans 15:13*** *May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

***Romans 15:13*** *May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Our God is a GOD of HOPE. He is able to fill you to the full with joy as you trust in Him. He is able to fill you to the full with peace, but you must trust in Him. This filling comes in equal proportion to our trust in God. The more trust you exercise, the more joy and peace He can fill you with. In this trustful state of heart the Holy Spirit Himself causes us to overflow with hope in God. It is a Holy Ghost Hope in God.*

*Paul prays that God would fill the believers with Joy and Peace as they trust or believe God. Paul prays this because life has a way of robbing us of joy. Life has a way of taking the wind out of our sails. And life has a sure way of taking away our peace of Jesus in our life if we let it. In this world Jesus says, “there will be trouble” (John 16:33). So, it is obvious that we will need God’s help, His Holy Spirit, to keep us staying full of joy and peace and hope in the midst of a troubled world.*

*All to often we say “I Believe.” We declare we have faith and that we believe in Christ and His Word, but in the midst of our belief there seems to be a spiritual problem; for we live in despondency, discouragement, depression and dismay all to often. We say we have faith but we are negative, down and despondent. I believe it is because we really have no hope in God!*

*Faith in God and faith in His Word are essential; believing God’s Word is central to our Christian faith. Yes! We must have faith or it is impossible to please God!*

***Hebrews 11: 6*** *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

*But are we maintaining a Godly hope to sustain us in the difficult times? Without hope we live defeated and despondent lives in Christ.*

*The Word declares that our faith is the* s*ubstance of things hoped for; therefore, hope is essential in our walk of faith.*

***Hebrews 11:1*** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*We must have hope! We must get our up hopes up along with our belief in God.*

***Psalm 43:5*** *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

***So, what is Hope?***

*Most of us use the word hope for something we desire, want or wish to come to pass, but we have no certainty of possessing it. We most often use it in place for wishful thinking. It is usually used with a measure of doubt, uncertainty and no assurance.*

*We hope it doesn’t rain. We hope we get a pay raise. We hope this diet works! It would be nice to have the desired thing but we don’t really know for certain that it will happen.*

*We often use it with “I hope so.”*

*This is not the kind of Hope Christ offers in His Word. This is not Bible Believing Holy Ghost Hope!*

*Bible hope, the hope that Paul prays that by the power of the Holy Spirt will abound in the church has no doubt attached to it. This hope is a “Sure Expectation” founded on the truth of God's Word.*

*It is certain. It is confident. It is so certain of the good desired and it’s fulfillment from God that it EXPECTS, ANTICIPATES and it is CONFIDENTLY AND JOYFULLY WAITING to receive it.*

*This Hope is an expression of your faith.*

 *This Hope is actually faith for things to come to pass.*

*Bible hope IS AN EXPECTATION of GOOD from God and ANTICIPATES the GOOD with full certainty. It foresees it coming. It knows it is coming. There is no doubt about it. Bible hope is founded on Christ and His Word. In fact, He is our Hope.*

***1 Timothy 1:1*** Paul*, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope:*

*Our hope is in an all-powerful, all knowing, all wise, all loving ever present true God, Jesus Christ, who is faithful to His people and His Word.*

*Your sure expectation (Hope) is not based on my wishes but on His Word, His love and His goodness.*

*Your sure expectation (Hope) is not based on my sensing something is going to happen, but on what does God and His Word say.*

*Your sure expectation is to be “Alive” in your heart. It is a LIVING EXPECTATION and CERTAINTY OF GOD’S GOODNESS in my life.*

***1 Peter 1: 3-6*** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead…*

***Psalm 27:13*** *surely, I would have despaired if I would not have believed to see the goodness of God in the land of the living...*

***Psalm 27:13*** *YES! I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living ...*

*We are talking about having our hope or expectation in God and His grace and goodness in our life. It is more than a positive attitude that we try to drum up.*

 *It is knowing God loves me and trusting God to take care of me and everything that concerns me. We are to live in this HOPE or confident expectation daily.*

***Psalm 147: 11*** *The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his loving kindness.*

***John Piper:*** *When the Word says, “Hope in God!” it does not mean, “Cross your fingers.” It means, to use the words of William Carey, “Expect great things from God.”*

*Hope is that part of faith that focuses on things yet to come. In biblical terms, when faith is directed to the future, you can call it Hope.*

*Faith can focus on the past … I believe in the death and resurrection of Christ, and focus on the present … I believe I am forgiven of all sin; so, faith itself is a larger term than hope.*

***Abraham: The Father of Faith***

***Romans 4:18*** *“In hope” against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."*

*"“In hope” Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations.” “Against hope” means that from the ordinary human standpoint there was no bright prospect of any hope: Abraham was too old to have a child, and his wife was barren. But biblical hope is never based on our circumstances or what is possible with man’s ability. Biblical hope looks to God, His goodness, and His promise. And when it does, it becomes a “full assurance of hope” — the expectation of great things from God!*

*In other words, whenever faith in God looks for and expects with confidence things yet to come to pass, it can be called hope. And whenever hope (our expectations) rests on the Word of God, it can be called faith.*

***Jeremiah 17:7*** *"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence.”*

*All our expectations are in Him; they rest in His unfailing love and and His precious Word.*

***Psalm 119:114*** *You are my refuge and my shield; your Word is my source of hope.*

***Psalm 119:147*** *I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your Words.*

 ***Scriptures That Are Filled With Godly Hope:***

***Jeremiah 29:11*** *For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,’ says the Lord, ‘plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

*We can always hope with confident expectation that God’s plans for us are always for our good, for our peace and prosperity. They will unfold in our lives in His time and in His way as we trust and abide in Him.*

*The Jews were in captivity in Babylon. There was no immediate way out. At this point they were hopeless and not seeing any change for the better. There would be no rapid release from their misery. The Lord reminds them that even in their disheartening circumstance, His purposes for them were still good; that there would be an end to their trouble in His time. There would be release and there would be restoration because their future as designed by Him was still bright and hopeful.*

***Isaiah 30:18*** *And therefore the Lord [earnestly] waits [expecting, looking, and longing] to be gracious to you; and therefore He lifts Himself up, (perhaps reference to the Cross) that He may have mercy on you and show loving-kindness to you. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are all those who [earnestly] wait for Him, who expect and look and long for Him [for His victory, His favor, His love, His peace, His joy, and His matchless, unbroken companionship]!*

*We can expect God’s grace in our life.* ***John 1:17.****.. grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. We can expect God’s loving-kindness and blessings because of Christ’s death and His resurrection; He is good and His love towards us is unfailing.*

***Lamentations 3: 21-24*** *Yet this I call to mind and therefore I HAVE HOPE: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will HOPE IN HIM. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

*God ’s love and compassion never fail me. I can expect every day to see God’s great faithfulness and goodness in my life as I abide in Him no matter what the circumstances look like. The Lord’s steadfast love never ceases.*

*Jeremiah witnessed the invasion of Judah and destruction of the temple. He was in the midst of ruins because of Judah’s unfaithfulness. He recalls to mind the goodness of the Lord in their past and gains hope for a good future to come.*

***Psalm 30:44*** *Sing to the LORD, all you godly ones! Praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

***1 Corinthians 2:9*** *… as the Scripture says, what eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him … who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].*

***Psalm 31:19*** *How abundant are the good things you have stored up for those who fear thee, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you…*

*Our finite minds cannot conceive all the good that God has ready for us to receive here and in heaven. There are blessings and benefits yet to come here in this temporal life and the unimaginable blessing of eternity with God. Get your hopes up! The best is yet to come! We are only passing through.*

***Romans 8:28*** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

*I can expect and have a certain hope based on God’s Word that everything (good and bad things) in my life God will use it for my good. God has a way of weaving everything together for good for his children. The ultimate “good” is conformity to Christ (Romans 8:29), a closer walk with Christ, and bearing good fruit for the kingdom of God.*

***Romans 8:31,32*** *If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

*All things that we will ever need to fulfill His perfect will in our lives will be graciously given to us. What you think you need may not be supplied, but what you truly need to accomplish God’s will is yours already. It will be supplied. Open your eyes and behold His goodness in your life. We never need to fret or worry about today or tomorrow for as we walk with God we have the confidence that He is with us, for us and in us!*

***John 14:21*** *The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who (really) loves Me; and whoever (really) loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I (too) will love him and will show (reveal, manifest) Myself to him. ( I will let Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him.)*

***Hebrews 13: b*** *for He has said, “I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!”*

*There are people in the world who are without God. They refuse to repent, turn to God and receive His forgiveness. They are without God and without Hope of any good. They need not remain this way; it is their choice.* ***Ephesians 2:11-13***

*But for those of us who have placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ we have the Almighty One living in us and possess a Living Hope of God’s Grace, Goodness and Loving Kindness as we journey through this life to our eternal home. God is with us! He will never abandon us! This is our Hope!*

*May the God of Hope truly fill you with Holy Ghost Joy and Peace as you believe in Christ, and this New Year may you maintain an overflow of Holy Ghost Hope through the power of the Holy Spirit within.* ***Romans 15:13***

*Love in Christ,*

*Pr. Diane Waghorne*