

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When you read today's verse, you may be thinking, "I wish I could have that **Hope and Joy and Peace** that Paul is talking about." And it's very understandable that you would think that way, because all you have to do is turn on the news or look at the most recent events being talked about on social media or just the internet in general and see how corrupt this world has gotten.

We see this world spiraling downward, downward, downward, and as it does, we think, "Where is the hope in that?" Yet the thing is, when we think that way, we are thinking the way that the world thinks, because they have no hope at all. Sure, they try to fix things in this world to no avail, and they feel like they are spinning their wheels going nowhere, which is true. But for us as believers, our HOPE is not in this world, or the things of this world. Rather, our HOPE is in JESUS CHRIST.

But sometimes as a believer, we have to be honest and say, "I'm sorry, I just don't see it" and honestly, we don't. But when has that ever stopped a believer in their walk with the Lord? We know that we are to live by faith, and in this very same letter to the Romans, before Paul made the statement in today's verse "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*" He said:

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

Even James said:

† **James 2:20** *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

We have never seen Jesus, and we have no idea what He looks like, and those false pictures or paintings of Jesus are a false hope, because they are a man-made hope. I always say jokingly, but honestly at the same time that one of the first things we will say to Jesus when we see Him in Heaven is, "Wow, You look nothing like your pictures." Because once again, the artist wanted something they could see, but as we just read, it's not seeing Jesus that will increase our faith, but rather it's us not seeing Jesus yet believing in Him anyway, and even though we do not see Him, we know, without a doubt that He is God come in the flesh, Who died for all of our sins, and that He rose on the third day and is now at the right hand of God, interceding for us at this very moment.

† **Romans 8:34b** *It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

That is our Hope, and in that Hope we have Joy, not joy in the circumstances that are happening in this world, but our Joy is knowing that we will one day leave this earth with all it's troubles

and sorrows and hurts and pains and disappointment, and have Joy beyond what we could ever imagine in heaven with Jesus Christ; Therefore, we not only have a **Joy**, but also a **Peace**, and with that **Hope** of eternal life in heaven with our **Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!!!**

† **Psalm 33:20-22 (NLT2)** *We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.*

† **Hebrews 10:23** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*