

Romans 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing (Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς ἐλπίδος πληρῶσαι ὑμᾶς πάσης χαρᾶς καὶ εἰρήνης ἐν τῷ πιστεύειν, ho de theos tēs elpidos plērōsai hymas pasēs charas kai eirēnēs en tō pisteuein)—Paul concludes the theological section (vv. 1-13) with a benedictory prayer. God is characterized as theos tēs elpidos (the God of hope)—the source, sustainer, and object of Christian hope just mentioned (v. 12: Gentiles hope in him). Plērōsai (fill) indicates abundant, overflowing supply. Pasēs (all) modifies both joy and peace: complete, comprehensive blessing.

En tō pisteuein (in believing/in the act of faith)—joy and peace are experienced in the exercise of faith, not after it. Trust itself, while we await future consummation, brings present foretaste of eschatological blessing. **That ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost** (εἰς τὸ περισσεύειν ὑμᾶς ἐν τῇ ἐλπίδι ἐν δυνάμει πνεύματος ἁγίου, eis to perisseuein hymas en tē elpidi en dynamei pneumatos hagiou)—the purpose is overflowing hope, produced by the Spirit's power. Hope is the theme: God of hope (beginning) produces abounding hope (end) through Spirit-empowered faith.

Historical Context

This benediction transitions from the doctrinal-ethical body of Romans (1-15:13) to the personal-practical conclusion (15:14-16:27). Paul's identification of God as 'the

God of hope' was particularly apt for a church facing persecution under Nero (writing c. AD 57, Nero's persecution began AD 64, but hostility was growing). Hope was not wishful thinking but confident expectation grounded in God's faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does experiencing God as 'the God of hope' differ from pursuing hope from other sources (circumstances, people, achievements)?
2. What is the relationship in your experience between believing (faith) and receiving joy and peace?
3. In what areas of life do you need the Holy Spirit's power to 'abound in hope' rather than languishing in despair or anxiety?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	θεὸς	τῆς	ἐλπίδι	πληρώσαι	ὑμᾶς	πάσης	χαρᾶς
G3588	Now	the God	G3588	hope	fill	ye	with all	joy
	G1161	G2316		G1680	G4137	G5209	G3956	G5479
καὶ	εἰρήνης	ἐν	τῷ	πιστεύειν	εἰς	τὸ	περισσεύειν	ὑμᾶς
and	peace	in	G3588	believing	that	G3588	may abound	ye
G2532	G1515	G1722		G4100	G1519		G4052	G5209
ἐν	τῇ	ἐλπίδι	ἐν	δυνάμει	πνεύματος	ἁγίου		
in	G3588	hope	in	the power	Ghost	of the Holy		
G1722		G1680	G1722	G1411	G4151	G40		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:12 (Hope): Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

2 Corinthians 9:8 (References God): And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Romans 14:17 (Holy): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 15:5 (References God): Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

John 14:1 (Faith): Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Galatians 5:22 (Faith): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Isaiah 55:12 (Peace): For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Hebrews 6:11 (Hope): And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

1 Peter 1:8 (Faith): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: