



MAY THE GOD
OF HOPE FILL
YOU

Romans 15:13

May the Lord use these pages to strengthen your faith, sharpen your discernment, and draw you closer to Him.

May the God of Hope Fill You



Scripture

“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

The Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Rome. The letter, Romans, is 16 chapters and written to a community of both Jewish and Gentile believers with the objective of uniting them under the Lord. In this verse, Romans 15:13, Paul offers a blessing — a prayer to God to fill His people with joy and peace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read the beginning of Chapter 15, Romans 15:1-3

“We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me”

Read further, Romans 15:5-7

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Now read the verse again. After encouraging believers to come together to glorify God, Paul offers a prayer “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.”

Cross reference Galatians 5:22-23 that tells us what the Holy Spirit brings to us “...fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

For a deeper study of Paul’s ministry, read Romans 15:14-21.

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What it Means

Paul doesn’t tell you how to find joy. He asks God to fill you with joy. Genuine joy doesn’t come from the world. Joy is a gift from God and it can be given through the Holy Spirit. To believe in God, to accept Christ, and to receive the Holy Spirit — you may be filled with joy and peace and you may abound in hope.

WORD STUDY

The Greek word for “fill” is **pleroo** (play-ro’-o). It means to fill up to completion. Paul is asking God to fill them...to make them complete.

The Greek word for “all” is **pas** (pas). It means all, every, any, whole. Paul is asking for joy and peace, without exception.

The Greek word for “joy” is **chara** (khar-ah’). This word means cheerfulness, gladness, calm delight.

The Greek word for “believing” is **pisteuo** (pist-yoo’-o) and it means to have faith in, entrust (one’s spiritual well-being).

The Greek word for ‘power’ is **dunamis** (doo’-nam-is). It means strength, might, or force... “the strength and might of the Holy Spirit.”

The Greek word for ‘abound’ is **perisseuo** (per-is-syoo’-o). It means to increase in magnitude or be in excess. Paul isn’t just asking that you be hopeful. He is praying that hope would overflow; that you would have more than enough.

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Discern the Truth

Joy and peace. Hope overflowing.

Paul prays that God will fill the Romans with joy and peace. Paul is not asking the Romans to do anything other than believe. He is going directly to the source of joy. Paul is going directly to God. He is asking God to fill the Romans with joy and peace and stating a simple fact. When God fills you up, you will have hope, overflowing.

And while this doesn’t require any actual work on your part, sometimes receiving something you don’t really deserve is the hardest thing of all.

Think about it. We know how to try. We know how to push through hard times. We are much less practiced at simply opening our hearts and asking God to do what only He can do — fill us...completely...with joy and peace. That is sometimes the hardest part — admitting you aren’t in control and letting God have the power...letting God bring you the joy that you can’t quite find yourself.

The Holy Spirit isn’t waiting for you to shape up and pull everything together. The Holy Spirit won’t hold back joy until you have earned it. The Holy Spirit works for you...works in you...even when you can’t do the work yourself. The filling with joy and peace is God’s work. And it isn’t dependent on the how pulled together you are.

By the Holy Spirit, God fills. You receive.



Stop pretending you are in control. Open your heart and ask God to fill it.

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Observe & Apply

You can choose joy. You can walk toward it. You can work toward it. And, when you’re ready, you can ask God for it. Stop. Ask God to fill you.

- Think about the difference between striving for joy, pushing yourself toward it and sitting back and allowing yourself to receive it. What is your default posture? Is it easier for you to be strong and push through or is it easier to open up and allow God’s grace to fill you with joy?
- When you meditate on this verse, are you able to see the power of the Holy Spirit? Are you confident in calling on the Holy Spirit to help you through difficult times?
- When you’re filled with joy, your heart feels light and you are filled with a boundless hope for the future. During a difficult time, joy can feel out of reach. Imagine reaching out to God during this time and asking Him to use the Holy Spirit to fill you with joy and peace. Do you trust God enough to accept such a gift?

Think of someone close to you that is going through a rough season or is just running on empty. Take time to pray this prayer for that brother or sister in Christ. Ask God to use the Holy Spirit to fill them with joy and peace. Be a witness to others so that they may also know the boundless hope and joy that comes from living **Safe in Christ**.

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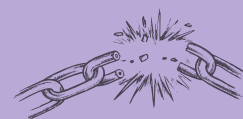
Romans 15:13

Pray & Reflect



ENSNARED NO MORE: DAILY MOMENTS OF DISCERNMENT

VOLUME 3 : MOMENT 5



EnsnaredLife.com

I launched EnsnaredLife.com with a desire to curate honest, truth-telling content alongside simple, purposeful things that strengthen a woman's walk with Christ or just add a little sunshine into the day. I am not a theologian or a professional blogger. I just wanted to learn something new while seeking wisdom and discernment every single day.

I value any time when I can sit alone, or in a small group, and study God's word, but I really wanted something that I could truly grab onto — something deeper than a quick devotional, more meaningful than what's usually on the shelf, yet still doable in the middle of real life. Most of all, I wanted it to be honest, without watering down or ignoring hard truths.

After much prayer about where to take this project, these **Daily Moments of Discernment** are the result. I pray that these short, standalone moments point you straight back to Scripture and help you live **Safe in Christ** — free from the snares that easily entangle us (Proverbs 29:25).

Thank you for supporting this project and thank God for the inspiration to create it.

Unless otherwise noted:

- All scripture citations are taken from the 2001 ESV translation.
- Word studies and cross-references are from the Crossway ESV Study Bible, the Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, or the e-Sword Bible app.
- Interpretations are my own, guided first by prayer and then by the many reference books and Bible translations on my shelf and, when helpful, an internet search to check a fact.

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