

Season of Hope – The Faith and Hope Connection

Dr. John Carmichael

[Rom 15:12-13 NASB95] 12 Again Isaiah says, "THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE."
13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Paul emphatically states that apart from Christ people do not have hope (Eph. 2:12); that is, they do not have the kind of hope the Bible talks about.
- Hope and faith is central to the Christmas message. Jesus's birth is the embodiment of our faith and hope. Faith and hope work together, especially during the Christmas season.

What does Romans 15:13 show us about the faith and hope connection?

Here are five details Romans 15:13 show us about the faith and hope connection.

I. God is the source.

- a. God is identified as the "God of hope," emphasizing that true hope originates from Him. He is not just a source; He embodies hope.
- b. Hope is God's nature: His faithfulness, promises, and ability to fulfill His word.
- c. [2Ch 20:12 NASB95] 12 "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."
- d. Keep your faith and hope based upon Him.

II. Filled with joy and peace is the goal.

- a. The ultimate aim is to be filled with "all joy and peace," which points to a holistic experience of God's presence.
- b. Joy represents an inner contentment and delight in God, while peace refers to being grounded and secure amid life's storms.
- c. [Isa 26:3 NASB95] 3 "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You."
- d. When hope and faith are in our lives, this is the state we will find ourselves filled with.

III. It comes as we live in faith.

- a. This joy and peace are connected to our faith in God. The phrase "as you trust in Him" emphasizes that our faith is the channel through which we experience hope.
- b. Living in faith involves dependence on God's promises and actions, not just intellectual belief.
- c. [Heb 11:1 NASB95] 1 Now faith is the assurance of [things] hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- d. [Heb 11:6 NASB95] 6 And without faith it is impossible to please [Him,] for he who comes to God must believe that He is and [that] He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- e. Remembering last week's sermon (Romans 15:4) that hope comes through the Scriptures stay focused the Word (Romans 10:17). [Rom 10:17 NASB95] 17 So faith [comes] from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

IV. Your hope will be stronger than your struggle.

- a. That your hope may be steadfast and strong. (Albert Barnes)
- b. Hope does not negate struggles; rather, it empowers us to face them. Our hope in God sustains us through trials and tribulations.

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- c. [Zec 9:12 NASB95] 12 Return to the stronghold, O prisoners who have the hope; This very day I am declaring that I will restore double to you.
- d. [Rom 8:18-25 NASB95] 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for [our] adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he [already] sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.
- e. God is strengthening your hope to be unstoppable.

V. Your relationship with the Holy Spirit will tap into the power.

- a. The last part of Romans 15:13 mentions “the power of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit is the agent who fills us with joy, peace, and hope as we live in connection with Him.
 - b. There is a necessity of nurturing a relationship with the Holy Spirit for the overflow of hope.
 - c. [Rom 14:17 NASB95] 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
 - d. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 - e. The Holy Spirit empowers you to live in hope and walk by faith.
- **God is our source of hope, our goal is to be filled with joy and peace, faith activates this process, our hope empowers us through struggles, and a relationship with the Holy Spirit taps into the divine power.**