

Theme: Facing the Impossible

Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

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.

Introduction

What do you do when faced with a seemingly impossible situation? How do you feel when you have nowhere to turn? Hard times may challenge us to trust what God tells us about Himself—that He is working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28), that He loves us (Romans 8:39), and that nothing is beyond His control (Daniel 4:35). How do the gifts of God’s hope, joy, and peace carry us through hard times?

Consider

Romans 15:13a. The Apostle Paul calls God, “the God of _____.”

- Read **Romans 4:18–20** and describe how the life of Abraham was an example of hope.
- Read **Psalms 42:5** and summarize the reasons why we should hope in God.
- Read **Psalms 31:24**. What benefits come to those who hope in God?
- According to **Psalms 119:49, 81**, what is the foundation for our hope?

Romans 15:13b. What does this God of hope fill us with? _____ and _____.

- Read **Nehemiah 8:10**. How does the joy of the Lord benefit us?
- Read **Habakkuk 3:16–19**. Why can we have joy when all else fails?
- Read **John 16:16–24**. Jesus explains to His disciples that they would experience great hardship, but afterwards they would experience great joy. According to 16:21–22, what would cause their mourning to be turned to joy?

- Read **Romans 5:1** and explain the prerequisite to having peace with God.
- Read **Isaiah 26:3–4**. What conditional promise does God make to us about experiencing His peace? What is the requirement to receive this peace? How long should we trust the Lord? Why should we trust Him?
- Read **Philippians 4:6–7**. What should we do if we struggle to have this peace?

Romans 15:13c. When do we experience the joy and peace that comes from God of hope (“in¹ _____”)?

Romans 15:13d. What gift does the Holy Spirit give those who believe Him?

Ask Yourself

What is my normal reaction when unexpected challenges come? Does that reaction honor Christ? Does it demonstrate my faith in God or my fear of my circumstances?

Why might I be tempted to “waver at the promise of God”? (Romans 4:20)

Do I regularly have God’s “peace . . . which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:6–7)? If not, why not?

Why is faith so important for receiving God’s hope, joy, and peace?

¹ In this instance, the word “in” (Greek *en*) communicates the means by which we are filled with the gifts of joy and peace.

Cross References

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Romans 8:39

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Daniel 4:35

All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Romans 4:18–20

¹⁸ [Abraham] who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God.

Psalms 42:5

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance.

Psalms 31:24

Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.

Psalms 119:49, 81

⁴⁹ Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.

⁸¹ My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Habakkuk 3:18

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

John 16:16–24

¹⁶ "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."

¹⁷ Then *some* of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" ¹⁸ They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying."

¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'?" ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 26:3–4

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.

⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, *is* everlasting strength.

Philippians 4:6–7

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.