

May 7, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Rom. 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

Paul uses the Greek word **elpidos** here as he blesses the church at Rome. This word translated as hope literally means *to totally trust and have confidence in*. We can certainly trust and put our confidence in the LORD. He has never failed us nor is it even possible. All of our hope, trust and confidence can be placed in Him. He is our rock, our fortress, our shield and our comfort. It is because of this hope that we have, that we can be filled with joy and peace as we continue to trust in Him.

Now here is a key to living in the abundance that God has for us. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit. I think we may sometimes feel that the Holy Spirit is meekly walking along with us just making suggestions by a mere whisper, when in fact, He is the 'action' part of the Trinity. He is the One Who fills us with His love and power to accomplish all that the LORD has planned for us. In **John 14:12** Jesus reminded his disciples of this very fact: *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (NIV)* Because Jesus has gone to be at the right hand of the Father, He is now empowering His Spirit to indwell all of those who have come to Him by faith. Jesus had chosen to limit Himself by coming in the flesh of a man, to being in one place at a time. However, the Spirit is multiplied to all who will believe in Him. Jesus was saying that because of the multiplication of the Spirit in all believers, we can do greater things.

Wouldn't you like to live in the power of the Holy Spirit rather than in your own strength? I know I would. Without the empowering Spirit in our lives, we would fail miserably. But with Him in our lives and walking by us as we go, we can do all thing through Christ Who gives us our strength.

Dear LORD, thank You for all joy and peace as we trust in You. We can now live by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we don't have to try to just exist anymore. We can truly live in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank You LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen