

March 15, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

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)*

As Paul is winding down on his letter to the church in Rome, he wants to remind them of the blessings they have as they live in the freedom of the Spirit. First of all, he prays that the God of *hope* would fill them. The Greek word is **elpidos** which means *an expectation, confidence and trust that what He has spoken will come to fruition*. Every word of God will come to pass. That is why we are set free because we know and rely on the fact of God's faithfulness. This then fills us with *joy* and *peace*. These things remind us that true joy comes from inside and not from circumstances. It flows from the Spirit of God and fills us to overflowing so that His joy can be shared with those around us. You can see and witness this type of joy when you are around someone who has it. It is striking to say the least. And it brings with it the wonderful peace that we find in Christ when we realize that all of our sins are gone; paid for by the precious blood of the Lamb of God.

The result of this is that we allow that hope in Christ to overflow by His power, not our own. After all, we are to be lifting up Jesus continually. People need to see Him in us. That is best seen when we are walking in His joy and peace. Let's focus on Him today so that others can see Him as well.

Dear LORD, we need You completely and wholly in our lives today. Fill us with Your Spirit so that others can see the joy and peace we have that comes from You. In Jesus Name, Amen