

Being Filled with *Joy, Peace, and Hope*, Romans 15:13

That's the trifecta, isn't it? Who wouldn't want God to fill them with *joy, peace, and hope*? No one! Let's first understand the meanings of the words utilized in our text:

- *Joy- chara* (khar-ah): joy, gladness; the cause or occasion of joy (Enhanced Strong's Lexicon).
- *Peace- eirene* (i-ray-nay): of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatever sort that is (Ibid).
- *Hope- elpis* (el-pece): expectation of good; in the Christian sense, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation (Ibid).

How can we get that, please? Note a couple of specifics from v.13:

1. Paul's prayer is that *God would fill* the Roman brethren with *joy, peace, and hope*. This is critical. The *joy, peace, and hope* of which he writes are **divinely sourced** (review definitions). They cannot be attained from human or carnal sources.
2. Though given by God, *joy* and *peace* are attained *in* and *through belief* (faith). God will not dispense *joy* and *peace* to those unwilling to believe. They are *spiritual blessings* attained only by those who have entered a *spiritual relationship* with God through faith/belief, cf. 5:1-2.
3. Similarly, *hope* is attained **by the power of the Holy Spirit**. Does this mean that it is a *gift of the Spirit*- comparable to the ability to *speak in tongues* or *perform miracles*? Not at all, for then *hope* would only be attainable by those *gifted* by the Spirit, and the Roman brethren apparently were not so *gifted*, cf. 1:11. Also, note 1:16 where the *power of God to salvation* is said to be *the gospel*. How was this *powerful gospel delivered*? The Holy Spirit was the *power* that *revealed* and *inspired* the gospel, 1:1-4; 10:17.
4. So, spiritual *hope* is attained by Spirit's revelation, and God fills us with spiritual *joy* and *peace* through our *belief!* *Joy, peace, and hope* are endowments given by God, but they are attained through *belief/faith* in and through the *gospel*- not as *direct from heaven gifts* bestowed upon us by miraculous means.

Therefore, let's notice the larger context going back and including vv.1-12 to get a clearer picture of v.13. What is necessarily required, in context, to attain this *joy, peace, and hope* from God?

- Vv.1-3, *bearing the weakness of* and *pleasing our neighbors* rather than ourselves.
- V.4, heeding the *instructions* and *receiving the encouragement of the Scriptures* with *perseverance*.
- Vv.5-6, with *unity of mind* and *voice*, *praise* and *glorify God*.
- Vv.7-12, understand that Christ was a *servant to the circumcision* that they might receive the *promises given to the fathers*, and a *servant to the Gentiles* that they might receive *mercy* also enabling them to *glorify, praise, sing, and rejoice in hope!* Thus, Christ was a minister of the gospel to both *Jew* and *Gentile*, cf. 1:16-17, for *all are in need of His salvation*, cf. 3:23; 6:23.

Conclusions: 1) *Joy, peace, and hope* are from God and cannot be attained outside of Him; 2) These are not unilateral endowments that are given just for the asking, but are attained from God by our *belief, knowledge, and obedience to the Scriptures*, vv.4,14.