



TOPIC Overflow with Hope – Romans 15:13

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THEME Celebration of Hope

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

OVERFLOW WITH HOPE

Romans 15:13 speaks about the Christian's hope. God is the God of hope in whom we can find joy and peace. With a trust in Him as the catalyst, the joy and peace will transform into a hope that will pour out into our lives.

To understand how we can have an overflow of hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, we need to know the aspects of the Christian's hope and that God has to be the centre of it all.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

1) ASPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

The sermon focuses on four aspects of the Christian's hope; we have a hope of refuge, a future residence, a relationship and a reunion.

Firstly, we have a hope of **refuge**. Christ told us that we should not be troubled when we believe in Him and God (John 14:1). Psalm 91:1-2 mentions four names of God. When we are in the storms of our lives, we can run to the shelter of the *Most High* and remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the *Almighty* whose power no foe can withstand. The *Lord* is our refuge and fortress on whom we can rely on and our *God* who we can confidently trust. Secondly, we have a hope of a future **residence**. Many people in this world focus on the properties they own. However, as Christians, we have one less reason to be bothered about the properties we own on earth for Christ promised us a future place in the many mansions of His Father's house (John 14:2). Thirdly, we have a hope of a **relationship**. Christ is our good Shepherd who gave His life for us (John 10:11, 27). We also have the right of being God's children when we trust in Him (John 1:12). With Him, we can have confidence that He definitely knows us. Not only that but no one can snatch us out of our Father's hand (John 10:29). Lastly, we have a hope of a **reunion**. Christ promised us that He will come again after preparing a place for us and receive us to Himself such that we will always be with Him (John 14:3).

2) GOD AT THE CENTER

1 Peter 1:13 instructs us to prepare our minds for action, be sober-minded and set our hope fully on the grace that will be brought to us when Christ returns. This hope needs substance which is our faith in God that convicts us of things we cannot see (Heb 11:1). Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Elijah were people who had this faith and hope in God. One way in which we can manifest faith and hope in God is to pray. Therefore, we need to learn how to pray as well as to do so steadfastly while rejoicing in hope and being patient in tribulation (Rom 12:12).

3) OVERFLOW WITH HOPE

Psalm 42:5 counsels us to always hope in God. Our souls need not be cast down or disquieted for when we fix our eyes on Him, we will be able to praise Him, our Saviour and God.

CONCLUSION

The Christian's hope has four aspects – it is a hope of refuge, a future residence, a relationship and a reunion with the Trinity. Hope must come from faith in God or else it would be meaningless. We need to pray steadfastly, trusting God that He will answer us and fulfil His promises.

The world chases after a perfection that does not exist. People therefore may see a hopeless end. As Christians, we need to fix our eyes on the cross as well as to look back at what God has done for us so that we will know what we can look forward to. The God of hope gives us joy and peace that transform into an abounding hope for both our present and future when we trust in Him. We have an endless hope that allows us to glorify God through our lives into eternity.

QUESTIONS

1. What was your previous understanding of hope and in what ways was it aligned or not aligned with the Word?

2. A. What are four aspects of the Christian hope and how do they change your perspective of how you should live?
B. Why must God be the center of your hope?

3. How will you testify of this overflow of hope you have from God?