



- A. Hope is the confident expectation of the future
- B. It is foolish to put our hope in uncertain things that are not eternal (Romans 8:23-25)
 - 1. The uncertainty of riches (1 Timothy 6:17)
 - 2. The vanity of power (Psalm 33:13-22)
 - 3. The temporal achievements (James 4:13-17)
- C. Abounding hope is not self-referential but Godward oriented (Isaiah 46:8-11; Proverbs 26:12)
- D. Hope in God is the medicine we need most (Psalm 43:5)

II. A GOD-ORIENTED HOPE IS EXPRESSED IN PRAYER

- A. Prayer itself requires faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- B. God can... God will... but even if He doesn't... (Daniel 3:16-18)

III. PRAYING IN FAITH IS HOW GOD FILLS US WITH JOY AND PEACE

- A. Joy and peace are intertwined in the kingdom of God (Romans 14:17)
- B. Jesus gives us his peace (John 14:27) and his joy (John 15:11)
- C. But our greatest peace and joy is Christ himself because he has all authority over all things. Through praying in faith, God fills us with Himself.

IV. ABOUNDING HOPE IS SPIRIT EMPOWERED

- A. The Spirit comes to those who repent of their sins and believe in the gospel (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- B. Being Spirit-empowered and Spirit-filled is directly tied to the word of God, the scriptures.
 - 1. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit
 - 2. Scriptures are a product of the Spirit
- C. False hope comes from false prophets who utter false words (2 Peter 1:20-2:3; Jeremiah 23:16-17, 21-32)
- D. Abounding hope is Spirit produced and empowered according to God's word, the scriptures (Romans 15:4; Psalm 119:50)

V. HOPE IN GOD

- A. True worshipers will worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)
- B. When we worship in Spirit and truth, we come to God who is our exceeding joy (Psalm 43:3-4)
- C. No matter what, we can abound in hope so long as our hope is in the God of hope (Psalm 43:5)

ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What is something (apart from God) that you have placed your hope in? Did it give you the joy and peace you were seeking?
2. What is it about God that gives us the hope that we need and desire?
3. Does your prayer life affect the hope you have in God? If so, how?
4. What comes to mind when you think of a "Spirit-Empowered" life? Does the role of scripture in living a Spirit-Empowered life come as a surprise to you? Why or why not?
5. What are you putting your hope in as this new year begins? Consider praying through Romans 15:13 either by yourself or with a group as you look forward to 2021.