

The Christian and Hope

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom. 15:13

Introduction

A. The Christian has Hope.

1. This was given to us in the New Birth, I Peter 1:3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively (living) hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

2. This hope is rooted in God and based only on Him, I Peter 1:21.

Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

B. Hope is "The Certainty of Faith's Expectation."

1. Hope is therefore faith applied to the future.
2. Because we believe in God and because He has given us His Word, we can put this belief (content of faith) into practice with the assurance (certainty) that God will work (expectation).

I. The Source of our Hope – "God".

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- A. We do not have our hope in our money, ability, education, circumstances, friends, colleagues, or church.
- B. The Christian is to believe God, trust Him, and expect Him to work!

II. The Characteristics of Hope – "Joy and Peace".

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- A. We have joy because of our fellowship with God. It is the joy of the Lord.
- B. We have peace because we can rest in His promises and faithfulness with certainty and expectation.

III. The Practice of Hope – "In Believing".

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- A. True hope will result in practical decisions of faith and such activities as believing prayer, obedience, witnessing and worship.

B. We are to believe (practice faith and hope) as Abraham:

Who against hope (feeling of hopelessness) believed in Hope . . . and being not weak in faith he considered not his own body now dead . . . neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb . . . and being fully persuaded that, what God had promised, He was able to perform. Romans 4:18-21

IV. The Potentiality of Hope – "Abound in Hope".

Has the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in Hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Hope is to be a dominant characteristic of our daily life.
- B. Hope is a description of what truth and faith means -- in practice.
- C. Hopelessness, as a basis of action, has no place in the life of the Christian. The presence of hopelessness and defeat indicates something is wrong.

V. The Power Related to Hope – "Through the power of the Holy Spirit".

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in Hope through the power of the Holy Spirit .

- A. The Christian is the temple of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in the believer to empower him.
- B. God does not expect us to live in our own strength – but in His.

Conclusion

A. God has designed Christianity to work. Therefore, we must be practical and apply hope to our daily problems.

B. The Procedure –

1. What is the problem? Isolate it – become very clear at this point.
2. What passages or Biblical principles apply to this problem?
3. What am I to do to apply these passages and principles? Am I to pray, trust, apologize, obey, confess, assume responsibility, etc?
4. What is the next step? It is to do it – in love and trust in God, knowing He will help you. Persevere – do not look to your feelings and circumstances.

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