

Good morning! One of the saddest things I know is when people live without hope. I'm sure this is one of the reasons why many people---especially young people---commit suicide. They just haven't lived long enough to know that it will get better. We can lose a lot of things in this life but when we lose hope, life just doesn't seem to be worth living. We can be hopeful though; hope is one of the best things the Holy Spirit has to offer us! This morning, let's explore this together as we read one of my favorite passages in the New Testament:

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Isn't that a great prayer? Paul wanted these Roman Christians (and us!) to experience life in a way that overflows with joy, peace and hope. I like his title for God, too: "The God of Hope". He's not "The God of Making Your Wishes Come True"---He's "The God of Hope". Hope in the Bible is very different from wishing. When we wish for something we don't have it yet and we may or may not ever get it. Biblical hope though, is the joyful expectation of receiving what God has promised. He's promised it so we will surely get it. Not only that, when we do get it we'll experience it as the Presence of God in our lives which will overflow into the lives of others with more and more hope. Paul's prayer then is my prayer for you this morning. I want you to experience God in a way that overflows with joy, peace and hope. Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace today as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope today... by the power of the Holy Spirit!