

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 15:13, **“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 Ghost.”**

The word **“hope”** has been miss-used, abused and misunderstood by a vast majority of those who stand against Christ and even by some of those who profess to be Christians. Paul was called in question concerning **“the hope and resurrection of the dead”** (Acts 23:6) which all Christians look forward to as being a better day than found on this earth. However, a standard statement by many is *“If all I had was hope, I wouldn’t have anything.”* It is as if they think that **“hope”** is just a simple desire of the flesh or perhaps a common wish. Not so! If **“hope”** was so meaningless, then why did Paul spiritually desire for **“hope”** to abound and that it was **“through the power of the Holy Ghost”**. In Romans chapter 15, Paul is expressing a number of things of which he desires for the Roman church’s benefit (which means it is good for us today as well). A dictionary meaning of **“hope”** is: *“a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen, to desire with expectation of obtainment, and to expect with confidence.”* A fleshly hope is when we want a certain outcome, as *“I sure hope my team wins this Saturday.”* Paul wasn’t speaking of common, fleshly things; but rather he was relating to those things which would benefit the church for their spiritual wellbeing and for their growth to maturity in serving the Lord. This was a “godly hope” he had for them. The word **“hope”** is used 133 times in the KJV of the Bible. One of the strongest uses in the Old Testament is found in Ezekiel 37:11 when the prophet is spoken to by the Lord, **“Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.”** Israel was shown to be as a valley of dry bones, which had no hope of deliverance. What a miserable condition for them to be in, similar to the way in which many of Gods children find themselves suffering today. They feel to have lost all **“hope”** which happens when they remove their

eyes from being centered on Christ. Paul alludes to the importance of **“hope”** in Acts 2:26 when he mentions what King David spoke of, **“Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:...”** Here we find that comfort is declared as we **“rest in hope”**. This rest is found in **“the hope of the promise of God, unto our fathers...”** (Acts 26:6). We, as believing Christians, **“rejoice in hope of the glory of God”** (Romans 5:1). One who has a great hope in their heart is one that knows that **“hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”** (Romans 5:5). Read the following verses and see the abounding importance of our having hope in God’s promises that are yet to come for those whom Jesus died for on the Cross of Calvary: Romans 12:12, Romans 15:4 and vs. 13, I Corinthians 9:10 and 13:7 and vs. 13. How important is hope? I Corinthians 15:19 shouts it from the rooftop, **“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”** Our hope is not small when it is based on Jesus Christ, His righteousness, and His promises of Eternal Life with Him as **“heirs, heirs of God; and joint heirs with Christ”** (Romans 8:17). No wonder Paul had such a godly desire for the church at Rome. This should be our **“hope”** as well. Think about it!