

## **OVERFLOWING WITH HOPE**

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13

### **REFLECTION**

What do people hope for?

*"To win a million dollars"*

*"To become famous"*

*"To be successful"*

*"To see my children become successful"*

*"To have a better life"*

*"World peace"*

Everyone hopes for something, whether openly acknowledged, or whispered quietly within one's souls. Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel was not wrong to write: "Just as man cannot live without dreams, he cannot live without hope".

The Bible speaks of us *"overflowing with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit"*. But what exactly does hope look like?

Well, hope is not mere wishful thinking. Nor is hope simply a general optimism or a positive attitude. Hope is not a fluid or amorphous sentiment that life will improve.

The Bible is clear: we have been born again into a *living* hope – Jesus Himself, who is not dead but risen from the grave (1 Peter 1:3-5). Christian hope is not merely an attitude – a vague sense of cheerful positivity. Rather, Christian hope is concrete - grounded in God's action observed in human history, that is, in the life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus the Messiah. Our hope is alive and well, because Jesus is too.

Christian hope is not *"things will surely get better"*, but *"God will fulfill his purposes for his creation"* – just as the divine purpose was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

God will fulfill his purposes. That's why hope does not disappoint, even when we are in the midst of suffering (Romans 5:3-5), even when we can't yet see the final outcome (Romans 8:24-25).

God will fulfill his purposes. That's why, as we trust in Jesus the Risen and Exalted One, we can experience joy and peace despite our external circumstances (Romans 15:13).

God will fulfill his purposes. Of this, the Holy Spirit is first-fruit and guarantee (Romans 8:23, Ephesians 1:13-14).

### **PRAYER**

Sovereign God, thank you that You fulfill Your purposes for Your creation. Your faithfulness grounds our hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, thank You that You are risen from the dead and exalted to the heavens. You are our living hope.

Holy Spirit, thank You that You are first-fruit and guarantee of the new creation. By Your power, enable us to overflow with hope.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Do you know of someone who is often positive and optimistic, but who has yet to know Jesus, the living hope? Pray that the Holy Spirit will touch them and draw them to receive Christ as Lord.
- Do you know of someone who is holding on to false hope or misplaced hope? Pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten them with the truth, and they will turn to Jesus our true Hope.
- Do you know of someone struggling to affirm that God is fulfilling his purpose in their life? Pray for them, that the Holy Spirit will bring assurance and overflowing hope.
- Do you know of someone who is suffering? Pray for them, that the Spirit will grant endurance, peace, and joy - even in the midst of drought and storm.
- Do you know of someone who may have given up hope in their marriage, children, future, etc.? Pray for the Holy Spirit to meet them in their situation that they may find hope in life once again.

*In Christ alone my hope is found:  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.*

In Christ Alone (Keith Getty / Stuart Townend)