

A photograph of a field of poppies. One bright orange poppy is in sharp focus in the center-right, while the others are blurred. The background is a clear blue sky.

*Blessings
Through the
“God of Hope”*

By Dawn Marie Wilson

Blessings through the “God of Hope”

By Dawn Marie Wilson

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 (Romans 15:13 ESV).

When I struggled in the first days after my diagnosis with multiple myeloma, two things buoyed my spirits. First, the Word of God strengthened me for the battle. **Hope in God’s Word** was the foundation for my co-authored book, *Truth Talk for Hurting Hearts: Discover Peace and Comfort Through God’s Perspective*.

God’s Word gives us the perspective we need for coping and hoping!

The second was my **hope in God**. Oh, how we need hope in our confusing, chaotic, heart-crushing world! In the front of my book, I always write Romans 15:13, which explains that believers’ hope is not only something God gives but is also rooted in Him.

The verse was Paul’s prayer, his benediction for believers. In context, the verse expresses Paul’s desire for the factions of the Roman Church to come together in unity. Perhaps the arguing groups had *no hope* of ever coming together. While there’s nothing specific about the believer’s conduct in verse 13, Paul presented a framework for that hope that would include “joy and peace,” which are certainly two signs of unity.

Here are some of the life-altering truths that focus on the **source, substance, surplus, and strength** of our hope.

1. SOURCE — God Is My Source of Hope

The “God of hope” is a beautiful and glorious title. Hope is rooted in God’s character, promises, and covenants. He is the author of our hope through Christ’s resurrection ([1 Pet. 1:3](#)). Because we hope in God, there is strength and certainty in our hoping.

Throughout the Bible, we see men and women who trusted God and placed their hope in Him. In the Old Testament, we notice the hope in Noah, Abraham and Sarah, David, Job, Esther, the prophets, and others. Messianic hope was the expectation of a king who would bring God’s blessings to the nations. Jesus fulfills Israel’s Messianic hope ([John 1:41](#); [4:25-26](#)).

David repeatedly spoke about his hope in God and urged God’s people to have it. Jeremiah, recalling God’s steadfast love and mercies, said, “Therefore I have hope” ([Lam. 3:21-23](#)). Paul reminded Timothy about Jesus, “who is our hope” ([1 Tim. 1:1](#)).

But hope is more than the hope of our salvation, as tremendous as that is. It’s also the confident expectation believers have in God’s faithful supply, encouragement, and comfort, and our future with Him—our “blessed hope” ([Tit. 2:13](#)). The God of hope is the one who inspires and imparts hope to us. *Can you think of times when God faithfully responded to your hope in Him?*

It’s normal for people to place their hope somewhere or in someone, like financial security, a job, one’s reputation or influence, or a relationship. A hard lesson to learn is that things and people **fail us** in this world.

In contrast, the God of Hope may allow us to experience troubles that develop our spiritual maturity, but the all-powerful and loving God will **never fail** us. His grip is firm, and He will never let us go.

2. *SUBSTANCE — Trusting God Brings Me Joy and Peace*

To experience the *fullness* of hope, we need to cultivate trust in the God of hope. Trust is a necessary prerequisite for God's ability to fill the soul. The highest gifts He desires to give us cannot be given until we yield to Him through trust. God's filling with hope or any other good gift comes *after* man's faith. The Bible teaches, "according to thy faith shall it be unto thee."

Hope in God is not "hope so," but rather, "I know!" It's not wishful thinking, but rather, standing confidently in who God is and what He does.

The faith that allows our hope is substance. It is tangible and solid. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is **the substance** or essence of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This defines faith as our foundation for life—something in which we can place our confidence without reservation. But the substance of God's hope for us also comprises *blessings* accompanying or coming alongside our hope as we trust God.

Paul mentioned two such blessings: joy and peace. Other related words might include gratitude, perspective, and comfort.

All such blessings come to us as *a direct action of the God of hope as we trust Him*.

What blessings have come alongside your struggles as you've trusted the God of hope?

3. *SURPLUS — God's Hope Is Designed to Overflow in Me*

Rather than allowing the Roman church to abound in dissension and discord, Paul prayed they would abound in hope and blessings from God. Some Bible translations say "abound," but others say "overflow." Both suggest the idea of plenty or surplus—*hope so full, it won't run out*.

The believer is meant to enjoy abundant, plenteous hope in God, not a puny, almost non-existent supply. God wants His children to experience the *fullness* of hope ([Heb. 6:11](#), the "full assurance of hope"). We are meant to rejoice in hope and be encouraged in the Word of God ([Rom. 12:12](#); [15:4](#)). Hope in God allows us to *receive hope* from Him ([Isa. 8:17](#)).

We can experience *hope even amid suffering*. Job said, "Though he (God) slay me, I will hope in him" (13:15a). Paul taught that we develop hope through a process—through sufferings that produce endurance, that in turn produce character, and that finally produce hope ([Rom. 5:2-5](#)), and he said this kind of hope "does not put us to shame." *Paul wanted believers' hope to be steadfast and strong*.

Abundant hope also shows up as believers wait patiently for God's future deliverance and their eternal home. Paul spoke about the "*hope laid up*" for believers in heaven ([Col. 1:3-5](#)). We'll see our Savior because we've experienced God's unfathomable grace. We'll see our longed-for loved ones in Christ. We'll be free from sin and living in perfect peace and joy. We'll serve our Father God while enjoying His sweet and powerful presence. And [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) says we'll find our prepared place in heaven better than we can imagine!

It's hard to comprehend how any Christian *cannot* have hope in God. But there **are sins against hope**.

First, there's *desperation* when we give up on God's promises. After I fell out of remission with my disease, I felt desperate. I forgot God's promises. And my hope waned. *I needed to rehearse the truth of Scripture to regain my spiritual equilibrium*. And no surprise, hope returned.

Second, there's *presumption*—trusting ourselves to work things out (failing to trust God's sovereign goodness) or taking His will for granted (His plans for our salvation and sanctification). While *desperation denies* God's ability to help us, *presumption ignores* our need to trust Him and obey His Word.

Does your hope overflow in the God of Hope? If not, why not?

4. STRENGTH — Hope Operates by the Spirit's Work in Me

Although we have our hope set on the living God ([1 Tim. 4:10](#)), the Holy Spirit is explicitly mentioned in Romans 15:13 as the divine *means* through which God's hope *manifests* or is realized in us. ***Hope comes through the powerful operation of the Spirit in our lives.*** We can never reach the abiding hope of eternal life and sanctification in our power. Such hope is only found in the abounding Holy Spirit and His power working in us. The Spirit is the strength behind our hope.

Likewise, we cannot understand how hope works to help us live for God without His help. The Spirit of Wisdom—one of the names for the Holy Spirit—can ***enlighten us to know the hope*** we have been called to in Christ ([Eph. 1:16-20](#)). Paul wrote to the Ephesians about their “**one hope**” **together in Christ**, calling for unity in Ephesus, just as he had in Rome ([Eph. 4:3-6](#)).

Although hope is not listed as part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in [Galatians 5:22-23](#), the Spirit actively gifts and empowers us with hope, and He rightly receives glory for it. When we lean into His control and allow Him to ***empower us in hope***, we can face life's challenges confidently.

Are you leaning into the Holy Spirit's power to give you hope in your struggles?

A Prayer of Gratitude for Hope

Thank you, Father God, for the hope you give us in Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. You are the God of Hope, and the hope you supply is plentiful. Thank you for the blessings that come my way as I trust you.

There is no enduring hope in this world, but the hope you give us is abundant and lasting because of your faithfulness to your children. You are my God—my God of Hope—and I trust in you.

Created by Dawn Marie Wilson

Truth Talk with Dawn, May 2025

Graphic by Raquel Raclette at Unsplash