

The Cycle of Hope

read

Romans 15:12-13

think

Recently I was hovering over Romans 15:12 & 13 and began to see what appears to be a cycle of hope, at least that's what I'm calling it for now. The cycle begins with God being described as the God of hope. As we think about these crazy times we are living in when there is so much uncertainty it is reassuring that our God is the God of hope.

Much of the hope we have in God flows from the promises he provides to us as his children. The promise of verse 12 is the hope of Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus is God's greatest promise and provision. God's promises have the power to pull us into his presence. It's as if the DNA of every promise from God is shouting to us, TRUST ME!

When we believe God's promises, he performs another miracle, he fills us with his joy and peace. But, there is more. God wants us to flourish in our hope in him so by the power of the Holy Spirit he causes us to abound even more in hope. An ever-growing cycle of hope.

The most important thing to remember about the cycle of hope is this. It's all a gift. The promises, gift. The joy and peace, gift. Believing the promises, gift. The Holy Spirit causing us to abound in hope, gift. The good news is that these gifts from God are accessible through prayer. Verse 13 is actually Paul's prayer for the Church.

apply

- Central to the cycle of hope are God's promises. What are some of the promises that you are seeking to believe God during this pandemic?
- Romans 15:4 says that the scriptures were written for our encouragement and hope. What stories or truths from scripture are you holding onto for encouragement and hope?
- Prayer is a gift from God to us to tap into all the hope of heaven. How is this pandemic changing the way you pray for yourself and others or is it?

pray

Father, thank you that hope starts with you; that it is fueled by your promises and is caused to abound in us by the Holy Spirit. Give us all eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand the hope that only you provide. Grant us faith to believe your promises each day and in your grace and mercy fill us with your joy and peace as we believe what you say in your word. For your glory and our hope we pray in Jesus' name, amen.

by Tony Souder

Tony Souder is the CEO of One Hundred Years, a family of ministries helping individuals, families and churches bring the greatness of God to each emerging generation. He is the Founder of the Pray for Me Campaign and author of the Pray for Me Prayer Guides that can be found at ouronehundredyears.com and the prayformecampaign.com.