

Greetings in the name of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST!

Welcome to *The Well Community Church – Indian Service*.

We have stepped into one more month by the grace of GOD. When you look back at last month, what do you see? It was all about the grace of GOD, wasn't it? Only GOD, nothing else. And what about this month, and the months to come? Once again, it is about HOPE in GOD. And when you think about this year and even the next year, it is still about HOPE—and even more, we declare *confident HOPE!* Hallelujah!

So can you guess what our series is for this month, based on this introduction? Yes—it is *Confident HOPE*. I see this confident HOPE clearly in **Romans 15:13**, which says:

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

Hope is essential to life. Medical professionals note that hopeful patients recover faster. Counselors observe that hopeful marriages endure longer. Historians record that hopeful nations survive even in times of war and famine.

Yet the kind of hope we often cling to is fragile tied to circumstances, achievements, or emotions. Biblical hope is different. It is not wishful thinking or positive vibes; it is a confident expectation anchored in the unchanging character of God.

Romans 15:13 is more than a statement—it is a Spirit-breathed prayer and a pastoral blessing. Paul prays that God Himself, the source of hope, would fill His people completely with joy and peace as they trust Him, so that their lives overflow with confident hope through the Holy Spirit.

This morning, we are going to walk phrase by phrase through this verse. We will look at its context, break down its key words, learn from Abraham's faith and William Carey's mission, and finally consider how to live it out in our daily lives.

Romans is Paul's great letter about the gospel—covering sin, salvation, sanctification, and service. By chapter 15, Paul is drawing the letter toward its conclusion. He urges Jewish and Gentile believers in the Roman church to welcome one another just as Christ welcomed them

(Romans 15:7). He then quotes several Old Testament passages to show that God's plan always included the nations (Romans 15:9–12).

Right after this, Paul prays. He doesn't just tell them to be hopeful—he prays that the *God of hope* Himself would act in their hearts. This reminds us: Christian hope is not self-produced; it is God-given.

1) God Is the Source of Hope

Paul calls Him *"the God of hope."* Not only the object of hope, but its very fountain. Just as water flows from a spring, true hope flows from Him.

Biblical hope is not vague optimism, but confident expectation rooted in God's promises. The Hebrew word for "hope" (*tiqvah*) means "a cord, a rope" something to cling to.

Illustration: Imagine a sailor caught in a storm, clinging to a rope tied securely to the shore. The storm still rages, but the rope holds. That is biblical hope anchored in God.

Application: Where is your rope tied today? If your hope rises and falls with your finances, career, or the approval of people, your rope is fragile. Anchor your hope in God's unchanging promises.

2) Joy and Peace Grow Where Trust Takes Root

Paul continues: *"May He fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him."*

Notice: it is *complete* joy and peace, not partial or temporary. Joy is not based on what happens around you it comes from God's presence within you. Peace is not the absence of conflict—it is the calm assurance that Christ reigns.

But there is a condition: *because you trust in Him.* Trust is the hinge of this verse.

Illustration: A child stands on the edge of a pool. Dad says, "Jump." The water looks deep and frightening. But the child leaps—because he trusts his father's arms. That's what real trust looks like: fear becomes joy, panic becomes peace.

Application: Where do you struggle to trust God fully—your finances, your health, your relationships? Joy and peace are not found when life is easy but when trust is real.

3) Overflowing with Confident Hope

Paul then says: *"Then you will overflow with confident hope."*

This is not a trickle, not barely enough to survive. It is overflowing, abundant, contagious hope that spills into the lives of others.

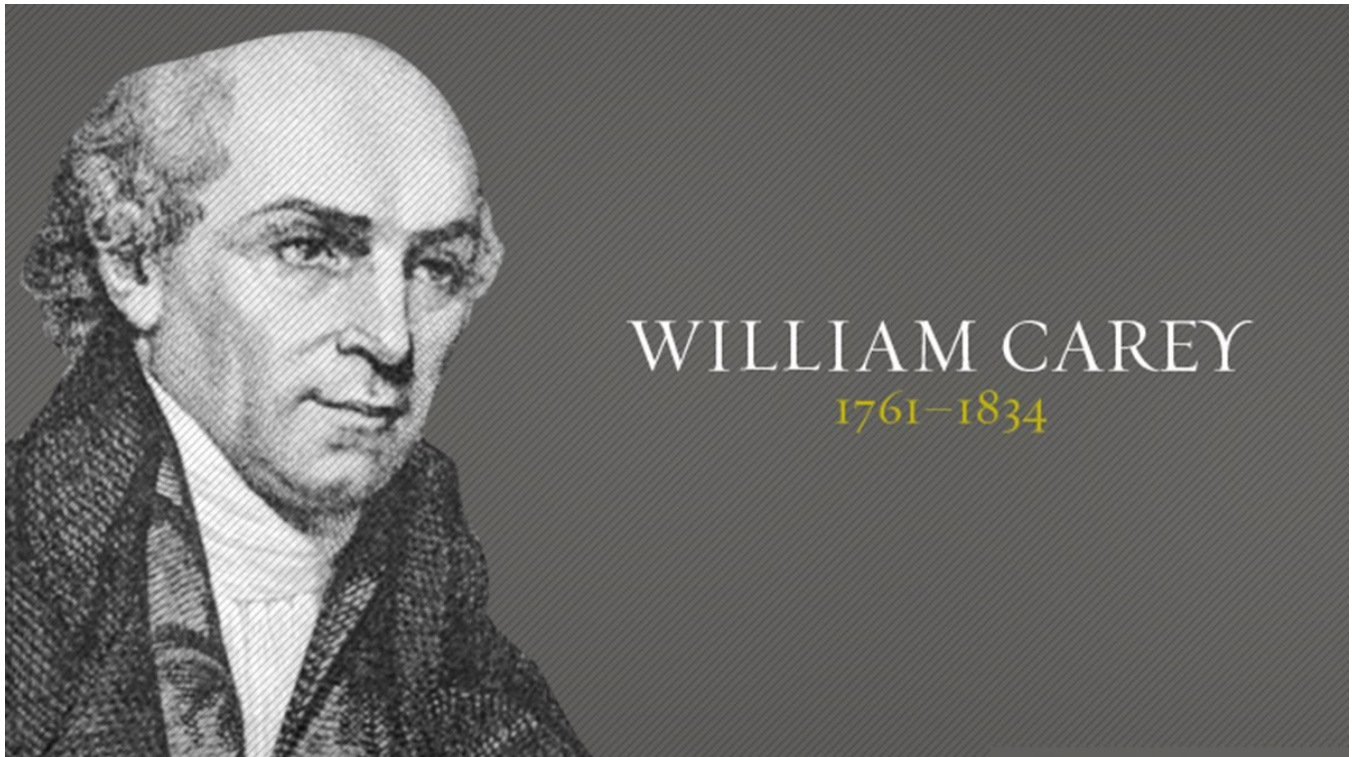
Abraham's Example

Romans 4:18 (NLT) says: *"Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping..."*

At 100 years old, Abraham looked at his body, at Sarah's barrenness, and saw no reason for hope. Yet he held onto God's promise. Scripture says he was "fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises."

Abraham's hope was not fragile. It was confident, steady, and unshakable. His story is living proof of Romans 15:13.

William Carey's Example



Centuries later, in the late 1700s, a young English cobbler named **William Carey** read the Great Commission and felt compelled to go to India. When he shared this, church leaders mocked him. One elder even said: *"Young man, sit down. When God chooses to save the heathen, He will do it without your help or mine."*

Carey was poor, untrained, and unsupported. Yet he clung to God's promises. His motto was: **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."**

In India, Carey buried a child, cared for a wife with mental illness, and worked for years with little visible fruit. Yet he pressed on with confident hope. He translated the Bible into several Indian languages, started schools, and laid the foundation for modern missions.

The Serampore Fire (March 11, 1812)

- Carey and his team at the **Serampore Mission Press** had spent **12 years** producing Bibles, dictionaries, and grammars in dozens of languages.
- Late one evening, a fire broke out in the warehouse. The flames spread quickly, and by midnight the entire building was engulfed.

- The fire destroyed almost everything:
 - Manuscripts of Bible translations in **14 different languages**.
 - A massive polyglot dictionary.
 - Unique printing types and fonts handcrafted for Asian languages.
 - Thousands of printed sheets ready for distribution.
- Carey wasn't even in Serampore that night—he was 40 miles away teaching. When the news reached him the next morning, he was stunned.

Carey's Response of Hope

Instead of despair, Carey responded with remarkable **confident hope**. His words were: "The loss is heavy, but as traveling a road the second time is usually done with greater ease and certainty than the first, I trust the work will lose nothing of real value. We are not discouraged."

- He saw the tragedy not as an end but as a chance to rebuild stronger.
- Printing presses nearby survived, and within weeks, work had resumed.
- Support poured in from England and elsewhere, enabling the mission to expand further.

God's Redemption

- The fire, which looked like a devastating setback, actually brought global attention to Carey's work.
- Donations increased, volunteers came forward, and the mission had even more resources to continue.
- By the end of Carey's life, the Bible had been translated into **44 languages and dialects**—far more than before the fire.

This story is a vivid picture of **Romans 15:13**:

- The fire could have left Carey hopeless, but his joy and peace came from trusting God.
- Instead of despair, he overflowed with *confident hope*, believing God would redeem the loss.
- Through the Spirit's power, what looked like defeat became a greater victory.

"Sometimes God allows the fire to come—not to destroy us, but to refine us, strengthen us, and multiply the impact of our lives. Confident hope says: 'Even if the fire comes, I will not lose heart, because my God is faithful.'"

Carey's life reminds us: confident hope does not deny pain—it endures through it because God is faithful.

4) Powered by the Holy Spirit

Paul concludes: "...through the power of the Holy Spirit."

We cannot manufacture hope by human effort or positive thinking. Only the Spirit of God can fill us with this kind of confident hope.

Illustration: A lamp looks fine even when unplugged—but without electricity, it produces no light. Many Christians have the form of faith but lack its power because they are not plugged into the Spirit through prayer, Word, and worship.

Application: Daily surrender is key. Pray: “Holy Spirit, fill me with hope today.” The Spirit loves to fill what we fully release.

5) Living as People of Hope

Romans 15:13 is not just a prayer—it is a lifestyle.

- God is the **source of hope**.
- Trust in Him produces **joy and peace**.
- That leads to **overflowing, confident hope**.
- And it is sustained only by the **Holy Spirit**.

Practical Steps

- 1.**Pray Romans 15:13 daily.** Personalize it: “May the God of hope fill me...”
- 2.**Identify one hopeless area.** Place it before God and anchor it in His promises.
- 3.**Overflow on purpose.** Encourage someone this week, share hope with someone who is struggling.

Conclusion and Prayer

Paul’s prayer becomes mine for you:

“May the God of hope fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then may you overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Amen.