

Series: Romans
Title: We Must Be Filled
Text: Rom 15:13
Date: March 22, 2020
Place: SGBC, NJ

In chapter 14 and 15, the apostle Paul exhorted you and I as God's saints to receive our weak brethren and not doubt or dispute with them. He admonished us to follow after things which make for peace for the good of our brethren. Paul instructs us to follow after things wherewith we may edify one another. We must bear the infirmities and sins and errors and shortcomings of our weak brethren. In everything we do we are to please them for their good and for their edification rather than pleasing ourselves—rather than doing what we want to do regardless of how it may hurt our brethren. Then, in our text, Paul declares the only way we will be able to do those things.

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.

Proposition: The only way a sinner like you and me can do anything that God commands is by God filling us through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Title: We Must Be Filled

Divisions: 1) What does Paul pray God fill us with?—*"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing"* 2) Why do we need these things?—*"that ye may abound in hope"* 3) How does God fill us with these things?—*"through the power of the Holy Ghost."*

ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING

If we would trust our brethren to Christ as we wait on Christ to make them stand then we need what Paul prayed for—*"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing."*

This is a beautiful name for our God—*"the God of hope."* In verse 5 we read "the God of patience and consolation". In verse 33 we read "the God of peace." This is God's name because this is what God alone give his people. God fills us with hope, patience, consolation, and peace.

It is God alone who fills his people. Concerning those who had gifts to make things for the tabernacle, God said,

Exodus 28:3: And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom,...

Exodus 35:35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, *even* of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.

If it was God who had to fill them to be able to do those physical things then we can be sure that God alone can fill us with spiritual graces. We cannot fill ourselves. God must fill us. How we need to stress this! What do we have that we did not receive? It is by God filling us that God keeps us from glorying in ourselves. When we know God must fill us, personally, then we will be more patient with our brethren because we know they can only do what God fills them with the ability to do. This is so important to remember about our brethren, as well as about ourselves.

Therefore, Paul prays for God to fill us, first of all, with joy and peace in believing. Joy and peace are two of the three things in which the kingdom of God consists.

Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Do you remember the reason that Paul made that statement? It is because if we serve Christ in these things, and we know that these are the important things in the kingdom of God, then we will use our liberty without hurting our weak brethren.

Romans 14: 15: But if thy brother be grieved with *thy* meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. 16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of: 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ *is* acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." (Ro 14:15-19 AV)

This applies to so many other things, too. If we know the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost rather than outward things, such as meat and drink, then we will follow after peace and try to edify our brethren no matter what the case may be. That is why Paul prays that God fill us with all joy and peace in believing on Christ—that we might seek to promote peace and unity amongst our brethren. We will not walk around with a critical eye, accusing, ready to judge our brethren for their shortcomings. That comes from a bitter spirit, an unbelieving spirit, a devilish spirit.

True joy and true peace are of God and are lasting. Carnal, temporal joy is of the flesh and only leaves us sad. Concerning temporal joy, Solomon said,

Proverbs 14:13: Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

We see this all around us today. The worldly joy and peace that men had a few months ago is gone now that the coronavirus has spread over the world. Something as small and unseen as virus replaced their worldly joy and peace with sorrow and heaviness. Nothing this world and our sinful flesh gives lasts. The lusts of this world will soon vanish along with all things in this world. Then, for those without Christ, comes the heaviness of standing before the all-consuming God. But the joy God fills us with is satisfying, lasting joy because it comes from Christ and his wonderful works.

Psalm 63: 5: My soul shall be satisfied as *with* marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise *thee* with joyful lips: 6: When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches.

Every unregenerate sinner in this world is looking for joy and peace. But they are seeking it by something in this world by something they do themselves.

Some seek joy and peace by their works under the law. But we have broken God's law. Therefore, joy and peace are impossible to obtain by the works of the law.

Some seek joy and peace in external observances of religious ceremonies. But true religion is of God through Christ through the Holy Spirit from a new heart God has created. It is spiritual. It is in truth. But our joy and peace are never from mere religious exercises.

Multitudes seek joy and peace in the desires of the flesh and of the mind. But ambitious pursuit for this world will not bring the joy and peace of God. God makes his child know that Christ is all our salvation. Doing so he makes Christ all our desire. As David said of God's covenant with him, "This is all my desire." That is the only way we will cease lusting after things of this world and be content with such things as we have. Contentment comes with knowing that having Christ we have all, regardless of what temporal things we have in this world.

Brethren, please do not misunderstand. Good works are good. It is good to assemble together, to sing, to pray, to read scripture, hear the gospel preached and observe ordinances. It is good to enjoy things of this life that God gives. But our joy and peace are not in those things themselves.

God fills his child with joy through his word. Not merely by reading it. But by God teaching us what God has done for us through his word. Many seek joy and peace simply by reading so many chapters and verses of the Bible. Christ said,

John 5:39: Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

God declares in this book that when Christ took flesh like unto his brethren, like unto God's elect, Christ became his brethren. He lived as our Head and Representative as our last Adam. As God looked to Adam as the only man in the world representing his people so God looked to Christ as the only Man in the world representing his people. Someone might say, "But Adam was the only man in the world. Of course God only looked to Adam." But when Christ took flesh and walked this earth God looked to him as the only Man representing his people as real as God looked to Adam as the only man representing his. All God's elect were really in Christ. We really did what Christ did.

The word declares Christ honored the law on our behalf by his life and death. In him we honored the law. God's elect have a Substitute who bore God's wrath. He died in place of his guilty people. When he died at the hand of divine justice, we died in him. The good news is that our old man of Adam has been crucified, judged and died before the judgment seat of God.

God declares in his word that when Christ arose we arose in him to newness of life in him. When Christ entered God's presence we entered together with him. When he sat down, we sat down together with him. Our life is in Christ at God's right hand right now.

The Spirit of God makes his child eat this word and live upon it by faith spiritually as real as we eat our temporal bread and live physically upon it.

Jeremiah 15: 16: Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Our joy and peace is knowing that what Christ accomplished for his people we accomplished in him. We called by the name of the LORD God of hosts. We are really the sons and daughters of God our Father. That is true joy and true peace which shall never end.

Free from the law, O happy condition
Jesus hath bled, And there is remission
Cursed by the law, bruised by the fall
Christ hath redeemed us once for all

So our Joy and Peace is Christ Himself. The Lord Jesus Christ said,

John 14: 27: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Christ gives us HIS joy and HIS peace one way “in believing” on HIM!

1 Peter 1: 8: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9: Receiving [right now through faith in Christ—receiving] the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

So Paul does not ask for dreams or visions. He prays God give his people one thing: *faith in Christ*. That is how God fills us with all joy and peace—IN BELIEVING ON CHRIST! When God gives faith in Christ then Christ turns our fears into peace and our sorrows into joy because through believing on Christ God imputes to us perfect righteousness. Believing on Christ God makes Christ our perfect holiness. Through faith in Christ we find perfect acceptance with God IN THE BELOVED. We find that Christ really paid all our debt so that we owe nothing to the justice of God. Through faith in Christ we know “*it is well with my soul.*”

Isaiah 61: 10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Romans 5: 1: Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

So why does Paul pray for this in our text? If we are filled with all joy and peace in believing then knowing that God did all the filling, knowing Christ did all to give us joy and peace, then we will trust one another to Christ and seek that which genders peace and edification to one another. It is unbelief that genders self-righteousness. Self-righteousness bites and devours. Joy and peace in believing points one another to Christ and waits on Christ to do the work in our brethren because we have experienced the power of God doing the work in us.

THAT YE MAY BOUND IN HOPE

The reason Paul prayed that we be filled with all joy and peace in believing is “*that ye may bound in hope.*”

When I have the joy and peace of what Christ has *already* accomplished for me then I have a good hope of what he *shall* accomplish for me—and not only for me but also for my weak brethren! Our hope for the future is in believing that God has purposed our end from the beginning:

Jeremiah 29: 11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Our hope is in our Covenant-Keeping God who never fails to fulfill every promise to his child for Christ’s sake.

Psalm 75: 5: Thou art my hope, O Lord God [covenant keeping God]; thou art my trust from my youth!

We hope in the Lord because of this:

Psalm 130: 7: Let Israel hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

Let’s talk about those two reasons to hope in the Lord: mercy and plenteous redemption. How does this hope in God’s mercy and plenteous redemption help me to wait on God to instruct my erring brethren.

Our hope in the Lord is that God never ceases to shower his children *in mercy*. His mercies are new every morning. If I have the hope of new mercies in God then I will be able to trust my weak brother to the mercy of God hoping in God to make him stand.

Lamentations 3: 21: This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. 22: *It is of the LORD’S* mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23: *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness. 24: The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Our hope in God is that his redemption is *plenteous redemption*. He redeemed *all his elect*—including my weak brother who I am concerned for—if I know that then I will hope in God concerning my brother! Christ redeemed his elect *from all sin*—even the sin I my see in my weak brother; Christ redeemed him so that his sin is put away forever before God—can I not hope in God to turn my brother from his sin? He redeemed us from the law, from its curse and from its condemnation—and my weak brother is included in that great redemption; so if I abound in hope then I can hope in God to deliver my weak brother. Christ redeemed us from death and hell, satan and all our enemies and at last he shall redeem us from the body of this death—who did all that? our Redeemer; that same Redeemer who is able to make my weak brother stand! Therefore, let us hope in God concerning our brethren.

Christ our Hope is the anchor of our soul. He is entered into God's presence to make intercession for us as our great High Priest.

Hebrews 6: 19: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which [hope] entereth into that within the veil; 20: Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. (Heb 6:19-20)

Therefore, if my soul is anchored in hope in Christ and if my hope is in Christ within the veil then instead of breaking out the whip of the law on a weak brother, I can go to Christ my Hope and ask his mercies upon my brother.

As I hope in the Lord and trust the Lord to teach my weak brethren, I will be happy in Christ and happy with my weak brethren at the same time.

Jeremiah 17: 7: Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is!

What are we hoping for? The apostle Paul calls it "*hope of the glory of God.*" That one day soon we will see God our Redeemer in all his glory! Right now we see the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus by faith. Our hope is that one day we shall see the glory of God in the face of our Redeemer face-to-face!

Job 19: 25: For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: 26: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me." (Job 19:25-27)

1 Corinthians 13: 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

1 John 3: 2: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3: And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Now, if I abound in this hope then I will abound in this hope for my weak brother, too. And I trust the God of my hope to make him stand.

THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

When the God of hope fill his child with all joy and peace in believing, when God makes us abound in hope, it is "*through the power of the Holy Ghost.*" How did helpless, dead sinners like us come to have spiritual life in the first place?

2 Peter 1: 3: According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

I have never been more certain that everything believers have is through the power of the Holy Ghost than I am this very day! After God makes us know how totally weak we are—so weak we cannot turn from ourselves, read God's word, or even seek a word for our brethren—and then the power of the Holy Ghost enters and fills us with God's word and strengthens us, it makes us certain that everything we have is through the power of the Holy Ghost. When we are weak in ourselves yet given power to believe on Christ, then we know what the LORD said to Zerubbabel, "Not by [your] might, nor by [your] power but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

The apostle Paul is the one God used to pen our text. God kept him humble by giving Paul a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan, to buffet him. Paul asked God to remove it three times. But God refused. Instead, God said to Paul,

2 Corinthians 12: 9: My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in [your] weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities [that is all you and I have to glory in believer—our absolute weakness caused by our sins], that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

In our text that is what Paul is reminding us of. We are weak. We depend upon God's grace to fill us by the power of the Holy Ghost to make us heed these exhortations concerning our weak brethren.

2 Corinthians 4:7: We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

So, brethren, remember the context of chapters 14 and 15. If a brother is weak in the faith, we cannot find fault with him without finding fault with God who filled him—every brother is what he is by the grace of God.

Romans 14: 4: [God said] Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

What will convince me of that and make me trust my brother to the Lord? What will make us suffer long and be kind? What will make us bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things for a weak brother? When "the *God of*

hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Let this be our prayer for one another and the power through whom we wait on Christ to make one another stand!

Amen!