

Romans 15:13–16
Christian Fullness

Monday, May 27, 2024 ◻ Read Romans 15:13–16

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v13 call God? With what two things does the apostle pray that God will fill them? In/by what will He fill them with this joy and peace? In what do this joy and peace make them abound? By what (Whose!) power? About whom is the apostle confident (v14)? Concerning whom? That they are already full of what two things? In order to be able to do what? In what manner does he say that he has written to them at points (v15)? To do what to them? Why? Whose minister/liturgist is he (v16)? Unto whom? What does he minister to them? In order that they may be able to do what? How is their offering made acceptable?

Why has the apostle written so boldly to the Roman church? Romans 15:13–16 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **God the Holy Spirit is sustaining and blessing the work of consecrating believers for the worship of God in Christ.**

In the previous passage (v7–12), we learned that we are to welcome one another for the same reason that Christ has welcomed us: for God's glory in the united worship of all the nations, who trust in Christ. Now, in this passage, the third person of the Godhead takes center-stage: the Holy Spirit.

Praying for worshipers who are full of joy and peace, v13. God is, for believers, the God of hope (v13a), the One Who brings the nations to hope in Christ (v12d). In this brief prayer, the apostle looks to God to make his readers to abound in hope. His prayer shows us the mechanism of this abounding and the Agent of this abounding.

The mechanism is joy and peace through faith. The more that we believe in Christ, the more joy and peace we have in Him. The more joy and peace that we have in Him, the surer we become about Him. And it is in this mutually reinforcing joy, peace, and hope that the God of this hope brings us into that glorious worship of Him that He has planned from all eternity.

The agent is the Holy Spirit. It is "by the power of the Holy Spirit" that we come to abound in hope. So it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we rejoice in believing in Christ. The fruit of the Spirit is joy! And it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (cf. 5:1). The fruit of the Spirit is peace! Whatever else we do for one another's edification, let us be sure to pray for it. For, ultimately, it is the almighty work of God the Holy Spirit.

Confident of worshipers who are full of goodness and knowledge, v14. The fact that God is the God of hope (v13) gives the apostle confidence/conviction about those whom this God is saving. He is persuaded that they are filled with at least two other things that this God uses to save: goodness and knowledge. With these, they are able to admonish one another, so that they don't "need" him to do it.

God Himself is equipping His people to help His people. And this is what we need in order to be able to admonish one another: goodness and knowledge. If we have goodness without knowledge, our kind intentions will be corrupting rather than helpful, because it will not be according to truth. If we have knowledge without goodness, we will misuse it and misapply it. But if we are to be useful to one another, to be brought to worship the Lord together with the nations, we must be full of both. And this is what the apostle is convinced is true about the Roman believers. For everyone whom the Lord gives us to participate in their lives, God Himself enables us to be useful to one another's souls.

Laboring for worshipers whose offerings please God, v15–16. If they are able to help each other, why is the apostle writing them? And if they are full of goodness and knowledge, why has he written to them so boldly (v15a)? Because this is what God has graciously given to him (v15b), what Jesus Christ has assigned to him (v16). He is Jesus's "liturgist" ("minister," NKJ) for the nations. By more clearly teaching and applying the gospel of God to them, the apostle is Christ's agent for bringing them to offer acceptable worship to God. The Holy Spirit, Who consecrates them and their worship, is using the apostle for this work. Thus the apostle knows that his service to the Roman church is worthwhile and effective. God Himself is using it!

When we serve one another in the roles that the Lord has given us in His church (and in our families), we may be sure that the outcome will be Jesus's leading glorified saints, who are full of every virtue, in worship that is perfectly acceptable to God! Sometimes, our interaction must be pointed. Often, it will not immediately appear to be effective. But we must not lose heart. The Holy Spirit Himself is sustaining this work and making it effective. God will surely be glorified in His Son, and in those whom His Son brings to Him for worship.

What do you need to be filled with, if you are going to abound in hope? Whose power makes this happen? Whom in your life does He especially use to do this? In what activities does He especially do this? In whose lives has He especially given you to be used for building up and sanctifying them?

Sample prayer: Our gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—thank You for Your loving purpose and plan to make us an innumerable multitude of sanctified worshipers from all the nations. Thank You for those whom You use in our lives, to prepare us for that worship. And thank You for the privilege of being used in others' lives. Please give us to serve Christ and minister to them by the power of Your Spirit, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP51B "From My Sins, O Hide Your Face" or TPH400 "Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 15 verses 13-16. These are God's words. Now, may the god of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. That you may abound in, Hope by the power of the Holy Now I myself am confident. Concerning you my brethren? That you also are full of goodness.

Filled with all knowledge. Able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless Brethren. I have written more boldly to you on some points. As reminding you because of the grace given to me by God. That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. Ministering the gospel of God.

That the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable. Sanctified by the Holy. So for the reading of gods inspired and inherent word. Which the idea of fullness and Perfection appears three times. First. What he prays that they would be full of Uh, in verse 13. Second what he is confident that they are full of In verse 14.

And then third what he labors. To see them perfected in. In verses 15. And 16. So first, what he prays that they would be full of now may the god of Hope fill you. With all joy and peace. In believing. So he prays for worshipers, who are full of joy and peace?

Because God is the god of Who makes his people to abound in Hope? Now he is the God who gives us hope and he is the God who is our hope. And so the proper end, or the proper result. Of his work in. Is that we would abound in Hope.

That we would be overflowing with hope. And the way we come to be overflowing with hope is to be filled with the joy of believing and the Peace of believing. We saw all these things together. In the beginning of chapter 5. Where he said, therefore having been justified by faith.

So there's the believing, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through whom. So there's the piece through. Whom also, we have access by faith into this Grace in which we stand and rejoice. There's the joy in the hope of the glory of God. So, the god of Hope fills us with all joy.

And peace. In believing. This is a reality that we have. And as is often the case in the Christian Life it is therefore something. That we should pray for we should pray. Um, to be filled with joy and peace by, which the god of Hope, makes us overflow with hope.

And when we pray for other believers, we should pray. Lord increase their faith. That they will be full of peace in Jesus, increase their faith that they will be full of joy in Jesus. So that being full of joy and being full of peace. They may abound with hope, they may be sure.

That they belong to you by Grace. This is what we should desire for ourselves. So that's the first thing we see here, praying. For worshipers who are full. Of joy and peace. In the second place. Of what is he confident? He's confident that they are filled with two things.

One is goodness. I myself am confident concerning you my brethren. That you also are full of goodness. And the other thing is knowledge filled with all knowledge. Able also, To admonish one another. And so the fact that God is the god of Gives the Apostle this confidence and conviction about these people who belong to God and Jesus Christ, we have in God and in Christ, all that we need in order to be useful to one another So what the Apostles telling them in this context, he's not writing them.

Because, Without him they would lack something. No, they have God. They have Union with Christ, they have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they have the ministry of the Holy And so, because they are indwelt by the spirit, they are full of knowledge and because they are indwelt by the Holy They are full of goodness, and they are able therefore to admonish one another.

Our ability to admonish one. Another is because we have been filled by God. And so, we should be careful that we not be proud and full of ourselves. But we should also be confident that if we belong to the Lord and he is helping us. We may be useful.

Um, in his using us. To help our brothers. Say prays for them to be full of joy and peace. He is confident that they are full of goodness and knowledge and then he labors That they may be. Perfected to worship perfected to offer God. So there's never the last Brethren, I've written more boldly to you on some points.

As reminding you, she says, not writing you new things. You already have a desire to do all these things, you're full of goodness. You already have a knowledge of all these things, you're full of knowledge. And yet, God has given to the Apostle, a particular, Grace, a particular Ministry.

And so, just because they already have Godly desires and they already have theological knowledge does not mean he's not going to write to them. In fact, he writes to them more boldly on some points. In order to remind them and stir them up. As reminding you because of the grace given to me by God that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles and he uses the word Minister and ministering here.

Not The servant word that we have in the word Deacon, but a liturgist word, liturgy, a worship leading word. And so here's the liturgist of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. Ministering the gospel of God. And so, in order to stir up their Worship in order to be used by God, to bring them to a proper Worship in Jesus Christ, he has written to them boldly.

He has taken a privilege that has been given to him. Not because they don't have goodness not because they don't have knowledge, but because it has been the Lord Jesus's pleasure to give him this particular job. This particular honor this particular Ministry. Of producing of being used for the producing.

Of the worship of God in his church. That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles ministering, the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles, Might be acceptable, might be pleasing Sanctified perfected made, holy By the Holy Spirit. And so, there's the last Perfection, or the last filling.

That they would be. Um, Made fully. Able to worship God pleasingly. Uh, rightly Godly. Holy. So, praise God. For all of these. Fullnesses. The joy and peace that he prays that they would be full of It's the goodness and knowledge that he is confident that they are full of And then, The fullness or the Perfection of their worship toward, which he labors even as He writes.

To. Than we. Ought to pray for that which is full and to be confident that we have from God. Uh, we fully have from God all that we need. And yet to take whatever. Whatever opportunity he gives us whatever role he gives us. Uh, in being useful to others.

Uh, knowing that at the end we will have been perfected. We'll be Fully prepared and consecrated worshipers of him. So let's not be Satisfied with half measures or complacent or lazy. Uh, in the faith. Let's pray.

Lord. We thank you for what you have given to us and your son by your spirit. We thank you also. For the ministry of this Apostle, which Continuous by your spirit. Help your people and perfect them for your Everlasting worship. We pray that you would keep doing your sanctifying work in.

And help us to. Uh, Rejoice over the fullness of your salvation. Even as we pursue it. Uh, and Um, Never grow. Uh, dull or sluggish or self-satisfied. So please help us by your spirit. We ask in Jesus name, amen.