

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD FILLS YOU WITH JOY AND PEACE

Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Today's devotional verse could be thought of as a benediction such as you hear from your pastor at the end of a worship service. The benediction is spoken upon you by him as a blessing from God based upon the Holy Scriptures you have heard, the sacrament received and the prayers sent forth to Him. Paul's benediction centers around the two words "joy" and "peace."

Joy is God's gift to you. It is an integral part of the relationship He has established with you through your baptism, the Gospel, and the Lord's Supper. This gift of joy proceeds from Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. The lynchpin of your joy is the knowledge of your salvation through God's gift to you of faith in His Son Jesus. Your joy also looks forward, especially to the fulfillment of His promise of everlasting life with Him, the angels, and all the saints in glory.

St. Paul encouraged the members of the church at Philippi and through his words in Philippians 4:4-7 also you, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

One of the blessings you receive through God's gift of joy is peace. Note this is how Paul ends Philippians 4:4-7, this peace of God is like a guardian of your heart. Joy and peace fill your heart and mind through Jesus Christ. Isaiah wrote, "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

God fill your heart this day with His gift of joy and peace.

Prayer: O Lord, grant me joy and peace through Your Son Jesus.

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. Refrain:

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. Refrain:

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throne.
Refrain:

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. Refrain:

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. Refrain:

Praise Him, who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore;
The Father, Son and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. Refrain:
(LSB 813)