

December 21

Romans 15:13 (NIV) 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.

The Christian walk is filled with words that we often take for granted but can still be difficult to grasp. Words like “plead the blood, grace, sanctification, anointing, etc.” are used often but can be difficult to explain. Many years ago, a friend admitted that he was having trouble with some of those words. He specifically mentioned the word “hope.” The dictionary defines it as “to want something to happen to be true and think it could happen or be true.” Thus, to him, hope meant that he was to believe that Jesus and the Bible “could be true.” He described that as “blind faith” and found it difficult to build his life on such a hope.

When we come into a personal relationship with Jesus, we enter His kingdom, a kingdom of hope. We leave a world where what is seen is true to enter a world where what is not seen is even more real. I explained to my friend that hope in Jesus is not blind faith at all. God wants us to love Him with all our minds as well as our hearts. He is the God of hope; therefore, since He is real, then His hope is real. Our hope in Jesus is not based upon myths, stories, ancient artifacts, possible archaeological finds, or scholars. Our hope in Jesus is not blind. It is eye-opening. It is based upon putting that hope into practice and watching it become reality. I explained to my friend that I had hoped tithing would bless us. It did. I had hoped that my life would change when I accepted Jesus; it did. I had hoped for a loving family; Jesus gave me one. I had hoped that when I became a pastor, the Lord would not fail me; He did not. I have hoped for people to be healed; they have. I have hoped to find that peace that surpasses understanding; I have found it. I could have gone on, but I explained that such hope is not blind. It is wise, reasonable, true, productive, and never wrong. After all, we put our hope in a baby thousands of years ago. That hope has grown into a King Who continues to reign.