**Joy and Peace in Believing**

*Romans 15:13*

**Introduction**

1. Conflict leads to grief and dissonance:
   1. Jews and Gentiles in Rome – **Romans 14:1-4** (liberties of eating meats)
      1. Strong (him who eats) despising weak (him who does not eat) – weak feels lesser, resents the strong.
      2. Weak judging the strong – strong feels condemned (when shouldn’t) (character assaulted), resents the weak.
      3. Reason – worldliness – **Romans 14:16-18**
   2. So much conflict in the world – social, political, health, religious, etc. – many grieved and at odds with one another, and themselves (inner turmoil; doubt; depression; fear).
      1. Reason – worldliness – **James 3:14-16**
2. Much searching in vain to replace grief and dissonance with joy and peace – political reform, social reform, self-help/health, trust in psychology (pop-psychology), drugs/alcohol, entertainment, etc.
3. **Romans 15:13** – Joy and peace are in believing (the gospel)/faith/trust in God.
4. The Source of Joy and Peace
5. God
   1. God of patience and comfort – **Romans 15:5**
   2. God of hope – **Romans 15:13** – fill with joy and peace (comes from Him)
   3. God of joy and peace:
      1. Joy – **Psalm 16:9-11** (Messianic – **Acts 2**; in His presence); **Habakkuk 3:17-19** (trust/faith of Habakkuk during impending Chaldean affliction – judgment from God on nation)
      2. Peace – **Isaiah 9:6-7** (Prince of Peace – Jesus); **Philippians 4:6-7, 9** (peace of God, God of peace)
   4. Naturally, the One who created us, and all others/else can only offer joy in this life, and peace.
6. The Holy Spirit
   1. ***“by the power of the Holy Spirit”*** – God’s agent of joy, peace, hope.
   2. **Romans 14:17** – Joy and peace in Holy Spirit.
   3. Holy Spirit – Divine person – work:
      1. By the instrument of the word – **Ephesians 2:3-5** (revelation); **Ephesians 6:17**
      2. Promise of HS to apostles brings peace – **John 14:25-27**
         1. Brings joy – **John 16:7, 16** (send HS, see Jesus again – figuratively/representatively in HS – **John 14:16-19**); **John 16:22** (rejoice, joy – coming of HS – reveal all truth – including Jesus’ victory in death/resurrection)
      3. Joy and peace offered to both Jew and Gentile in OT scripture – **Romans 15:7-12** (promotes peace between Jew and Gentile as they rejoice in the common hope) (confess God to Gentiles, invite them to rejoice and praise God, hope in the Jewish Messiah)
   4. In the Spirit inspired word there is offered peace (before God, thus inner) and joy (knowing victory of Jesus, and hope of victory).
   5. Not accessed by all, though available.
7. Believing
   1. **Romans 15:13** – God is seeking to fill them with joy and peace by the HS in believing (the gospel revealed by the HS).
   2. Inspired gospel is only effective for them that believe – **Romans 1:16-17**
      1. Obedience – **Romans 1:5; 16:26**
      2. Obeyed form of doctrine – **Romans 6:17** – delivered to it as slave **(v. 18** – slave of righteousness).
      3. **Romans 14:16-18** – peace and joy only accompany righteousness by the Spirit’s direction – serving Christ and being acceptable to God.
   3. The joy and peace offered by God is only afforded those who submit to His will in trusting faith.
      1. Cannot receive what God offers without full obedience.
   4. Dedication/full devotion to God’s will – **Galatians 2:20**
   5. Such a life is not burdensome – **1 John 5:3; Matthew 11:28-30** (yoke easy) – joy and peace in fellowship with Christ through faithful obedience.
8. Joy and Peace in Believing
9. Redemption
   1. Joy:
      1. **Psalm 51:12** – joy of salvation. (David’s Psalm of penitence)
         1. No joy in sin – **Psalm 51:3-5**
         2. **Psalm 32:1-5, 10-11** – contrast of one in sin vs one forgiven.
            1. Sorrows vs gladness and rejoicing.
      2. EX: Paul and Silas rejoicing with praises to God in prison – **Acts 16:25** (After being arrested for doing the Lord’s work – casting out demon)
      3. Nothing can rob joy from one whose joy is in salvation:
         1. **Romans 5:3** – joy in hope, but “glory” (rejoice) in tribulation.
         2. **Romans 8:37-39** – such joy is independent from all outward circumstances – nobody (except you) can take your salvation from you.
   2. Peace:
      1. The joy comes from the peace we’re afforded, which in turn leads to more joy.
      2. **Romans 5:1, 6-11** – The peace we have is before God because of Christ – v. 11 – causes rejoicing.
      3. Picture of being God’s enemy – **Luke 14:31-32** (counting cost of discipleship – as God’s enemy, you are like that king – 10,000 vs 20,000
      4. **Colossians 1:19-23** – peace through the blood of His cross – reconciled, holy, blameless, above reproach – if faithful (in believing).
         1. Such affords us a peace of mind – **Hebrews 9:14** – cleansed conscience.
10. Purpose
    1. Joy:
       1. Sorrow with unfound purpose – **Ecclesiastes 1:2** – in seek purpose under sun – all vanity.
          1. **Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1** – remember Creator before difficult days come.
          2. Joy in temporal matters until age prevents you from enjoying them anymore – IF JOY IS IN THE LORD FROM THE START THEN IT WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE.
          3. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – in serving God.
       2. **Psalm 8:3-9** – God mindful of man – given purpose.
       3. **Ephesians 2:10** – SPIRITUAL CREATION – for good works (obeying gospel).
          1. Can rejoice always in this – **Philippians 4:4** – in Lord, i.e. in His service.
    2. Peace:
       1. Encouragement to not grow weary – **Galatians 6:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13**
          1. Doing the Lord’s will while others around you aren’t (supposed to be) tends to discourage.
          2. Peace knowing you are right with God.
       2. Example of Ezekiel – **Ezekiel 3:16-19** – called to be a watchman.
          1. Warning wicked, but no penitence – not good.
          2. Fulfilled purpose in warning – peace knowing ***“you have delivered your soul.”***
          3. Not warned? – no peace, purpose not performed.
       3. Joy knowing you have purpose, and peace knowing you are fulfilling it – **Romans 8:6** – life and peace being spiritually minded.
          1. Created spiritual being – to live for the spiritual – under submission to HS.
          2. Spiritual life with God – peace with God fulfilling purpose.
          3. Peace of mind knowing you’re living according to created purpose.
11. Expectation
    1. Joy:
       1. **Romans 5:1-2** – rejoice in hope.
          1. Hope – *elpis* – 2a1) joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation (THAYER).
       2. **Romans 8:24-25** – know there is something better, expect it, eagerly wait.
          1. **Romans 8:18** – glory – glorious transformation.
       3. **Romans 12:12** – “rejoicing in hope”
       4. Jesus to His apostles **– Luke 10:20** – names written in heaven – expectation to be there.
    2. Peace:
       1. **2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5** – at peace (not losing heart) during turmoil knowing inward transformation, and expectation of heavenly home.
          1. **(v. 5)** – Spirit as guarantee – down payment.
          2. **(4:16)** – inward renewal by Spirit is down payment for habitation from heaven – glorious body.
       2. **2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8** – Peace knowing Christ can keep you as you have committed to Him, and grant you the eternal prize in the end.
12. The Result of Joy and Peace
13. Treasuring God’s Word
    1. Joy and peace are granted in believing – **Romans 15:13** – comes from God’s word – **Romans 10:17**
    2. Will treasure God’s word, because that is where continual joy and peace can be found – **Psalm 119:97, 103** – daily meditation, sweet to taste.
14. Abounding in Hope
    1. Such joy and peace contribute to the growth of hope – **Romans 15:13** – ***“that you may abound in hope”***
    2. When sorrow is eclipsed by joy – hope grows.
    3. When turmoil is eclipsed by inner peace stemming from peace with God – hope grows.
    4. Joy and peace in believing lead to persistence in faith, which leads to ***“full assurance of hope”*** – **Hebrews 6:11-12**

**Conclusion**

1. There is much opposite of joy and peace in this life on earth.
2. However, for the one who has dedicated his life to the service of God by faith, there is great joy and peace afforded him.