

HOMework

Your HomeWork for this week is to memorize Romans 15:13. As you meditate on this verse, replace 'you' with the names of friends and loved ones, praying for these people as God brings them to mind.

RAISE THE QUESTION

Hope is the worst of evils, for it prolongs the torment of man.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

Hope is the thing with feathers / That perches in the soul, / And sings the tune—without the words, / And never stops at all, / And sweetest in the gale is heard; / And sore must be the storm / That could abash the little bird / That kept so many warm. / I've heard it in the chilliest land, / And on the strangest sea; / Yet, never, in extremity, / It asked a crumb of me.

—"Hope" by Emily Dickinson

Compare and contrast these two views of hope.

In our current series, *Full*, we are discussing the work of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of believers. This week, we'll see that the God of hope gives us His Holy Spirit so that we might also have hope.

SEEK THE ANSWER

Read Romans 8:20–25

1. Hope—in the biblical sense—is the confident expectation that what God has promised will come to pass (see vs. 24–25). And, the Holy Spirit is the source of our hope (see Ephesians 1:13–14 and Romans 5:5).

What are things that people in our culture hope for?

2. In Romans 8:20–21, Paul reminds his readers that it was God who ordained futility as a curse upon creation (see Genesis 3). However, this futility is not without purpose or hope. God ordains futility to make us painfully aware that this earth is not our ultimate home. The hope is that one day all will be set free into the "glory of the children of God." **What are some ways in which creation has been subjected to futility?**

3. The curse of futility causes creation to groan and yearn for the glorious freedom that God promises. In the same way, we as Christians eagerly await the redemption of our bodies and the culmination of the end of this age. Thankfully, we are not alone as we yearn for the completion of God's promises. The Holy Spirit groans with us in hope. **What can distract a Christian from this yearning for redemption?**

LIVE THE TRUTH

Read Romans 5:1–11

4. In addition to groaning with us in hope, the Holy Spirit also gives us reason to hope. This is because the "love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (vs. 5). And, the content of that love is "that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (vs. 8). In other words, the reason to confidently expect that God's promises will come to pass (hope) is that God loved us enough to send His Son to die for us. **What are some ways you can cultivate biblical hope in your heart this week?**

5. Verses 3–5 tell us that hope can sustain us through tribulation. True hope does not disappoint. **How can your small group help you maintain hope through your struggles?**