

**January 22, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

***Rom. 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. (NIV)***

As Paul is getting close to the end of his letter (and also to his life), he wants to give a blessing to the followers in Rome. Following the Lord fills us with joy and peace. This is something that the world can never give. People look for this in all kinds of ways and they may find a temporary joy, but it will not last. The only true joy and peace are the eternal kind that only the LORD Himself can offer. I was reminded of this today as I attended a memorial service of one of my roommates and pledge brothers from Baylor University. He was a person that demonstrated the joy of the LORD in his everyday life. This came from the gift of the Holy Spirit that lived in him because of his walk with the LORD.

This is not something that you can manufacture or meditate and receive. This is only found in a relationship with the One Who made you. He is the giver of all good things. As Paul said, ***“as you trust in Him.”*** And the purpose of peace and joy? It is not just so we can feel good and peaceful, but it is so that we can overflow with hope. That is what the lost world is looking for and they can find it if we will share it with them. Will you allow the LORD to fill you so that you can then share with those around you?

**Dear LORD, there is nothing greater than to know we are Yours and that we have the joy of the LORD within us and the peace that passes all understanding. These are only found in You! In Jesus Name, Amen**