

Is There Any Hope For The Hopeless?

By Kimberly Sowell

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NKJV)

Hopeless. What a tragic word in the English language! When we believe a situation is indeed hopeless, we grieve in advance for the loss of what might have been. God would not have you feeling hopeless, and especially not doubting His ability to seek and save the lost. Notice the Apostle Paul's progression of thought in this verse.

1. God fills you with joy and peace *as you believe* in Him. Joy is not to be confused with happiness, nor peace with comfort, for happiness and comfort are based on circumstances, while joy and peace flow from having a relationship of faith with God. Are you lacking the Holy Spirit's fruits of joy and peace? Are you struggling with an area of doubt? Cry out to the Lord, just as the daddy who wanted Jesus to heal his little girl: *Lord, I believe! Help my unbelief!* (Mark 9:24) God wants us to admit our times of doubt and worry, because He is the one who can relieve those fears and doubts.
2. God desires for you to not only be joyful and at peace, but He desires for you and I to breath the air of hope. God-sized hope acknowledges the power of all mighty God without feeling compelled to factor in human frailties. Have you ever thought, *I know God can save anyone, but this man has a hard heart! Or, This woman doesn't even want to be saved!* Remember the words of God, that no one is righteous, all have sinned, and no one, not even the "nicest" person you know, is capable of coming to God on their own, but only through the Holy Spirit's drawing is anyone saved. When Jesus paid the cost of our sin debt on Calvary's cross, His blood sacrifice was sufficient for even the vilest offender.

Does your prayer life reflect a heart abounding in hope? What about your attitudes toward difficult situations or conflicts? Are you consistently in great expectation as you pray for the lost around you?