



Day 8: Full to Overflowing! by Nicky Dixon



Hello everyone, and welcome to our final day of KYB Week, as we reflect on the Hope we find in God. I'm Nicky Dixon, and I'm here in Mid Wales, by the wonderful waterfall at the end of Lake Vyrnwy, my favourite place to come to be still.

Today's Scripture focus is Romans 15 verse 13, where Paul is rounding off his letter to the church in Rome with this wonderful blessing: **'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.'**

In those few words Paul shares a wish, a command and a promise. He wishes that God will give peace and joy to the believers, he commands them to trust in God completely, so they can then receive the promise – that God the Holy Spirit will be so abundant in their lives that they overflow with hope!

So often, I find myself wanting the benefits of the promises God makes, but some are conditional - their fulfilment depends on our actions and responses. For example, Jesus said in John 15 verse 7 'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.' Or in Matthew 6 verse 33 'But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food, our bodies, clothes) will be given to you as well.'

So back to Romans 15, Paul appeals to the God whose very character is love, faithfulness and wanting to bless his children with good things. He asks that the believers in Rome be filled with all joy and peace, two beautiful qualities with which we will shine like stars as we hold

out the word of life to a crooked and depraved generation, as Paul wrote to the Philippians (chapter 2 verses 14-16).

Our part to play is to TRUST, to have an attitude of complete trust in God and desire for him fill our souls, to follow his guidance, to believe in him with all our hearts, minds, and souls. The God of hope's provision for us is not like a dried-out stream or a dripping tap, but an abundant exuberance which can fill and keep on filling those who are willing to be filled.

The source of this waterfall is way up in the mountains – I can't stop the water here. It's not like a pipe we can unscrew or an electrical switch we can flick. We have the offer of a continuous, copious current of fresh-flowing joy and peace coming directly from the God of Hope himself by the power of the Holy Spirit. How do we receive it? Just by trusting God to be the anchor our souls for this life with all its troubles, change and challenges and for eternity.

And the water here keeps on flowing down the valleys, watering the land, sustaining plant and animals along the way, providing water for countless people in Cheshire and Merseyside in the North-West.

Shall we pray.....

O God who is Hope, Love, Peace & Joy, we thank you today for the blessings of knowing you. Help us Lord, to trust you more and more, to be open to all the fulness of your joy and peace, not just for us through these times of our lives, but for others to see your desire and capacity to save, to turn to you and to find you. May the abundance of your Holy Spirit overflow to those we meet, through our thoughts, words, & actions. Amen

**Thank you so much for joining us this week
we pray it HAS been a blessing.**

Finally, all the leadership team here at Know Your Bible pray that the God of Hope will 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. **Amen**

