

Rejoice!

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

REJOICE IN HIS HOPE AND PEACE

Read: Romans 15:13 - Paul's Prayer for the Reader

With this verse, Paul concludes almost three chapters devoted to Christian living and relationships.

Write down 3 things that bring you joy and discuss with the group:

When you use the word "hope" in general conversation, what is usually meant?

What does Paul mean when he calls God "the God of hope?"

Read: Hebrews 6:17-19a; Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:13, 21; 1 Peter 3:15

When you think of God filling you with all joy, what other words might be used as a substitute for the word “fill?”

What other words could be used in place of “joy?”

What other words can be used for “peace?”

How is God’s peace different from earthly peace, which is considered lack of conflict or trouble?

Read: John 14:27 and Philippians 4:7-9

Where does this joy and peace come from?

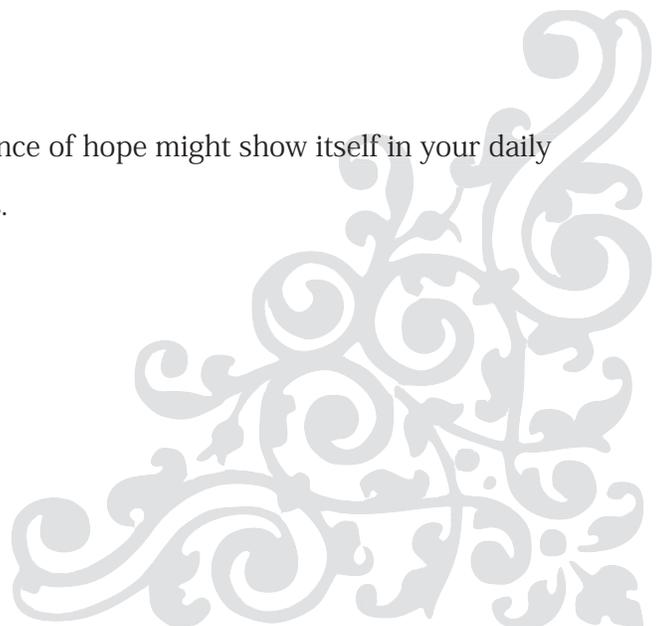
Define trust:

What comes to mind when you hear the word “overflow?”



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Share some examples of how this abundance of hope might show itself in your daily living, especially in behaviours toward others.



As this hope overflows into your daily life and permeates your thoughts and actions, others will notice.

Reread: 1 Peter 3:15 to see how to respond if you are asked about it.

How is all of this even possible? From whom do you draw the power for this attitude and approach to life?

How do you keep such a flow going?

Think of yourself as a jar with a spigot. Through the spigot your abundances come out and flow to others. But....you have to keep the jar replenished so there is something to flow out! How do you do this?

Read: Romans 15:13 again

See if it means more to you now that you have taken the verse apart phrase by phrase. Ponder over it for a moment.



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Go back to your list of things that bring you joy. What would you now add to it?

We've come full circle! We need to Recharge with God's Word to sustain faith and grow to spiritual maturity. We need to Recharge with God's Word in order to serve each other. We need to Recharge with God's Word in order to Reach Out, and we need to Recharge with God's Word daily to Rejoice!

Prayer:

Dear Lord, Through the faith generated in us by the Holy Spirit, we pray that the hope we have will spill over into our daily thoughts, actions and attitudes. Bless our lives with hope and trust. In Jesus' name. Amen.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

