

HOPE IN THE D A R K

We are people of hope!

Because...

...Jesus is alive!

...Jesus is King!

Romans 15:13

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit enables us to be BETTER.

Romans 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Holy Spirit enables us to be BIGGER.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

"We should never be tempted to think that growth in Christ-likeness reduces our uniqueness. As we become more and more like Christ, we become more uniquely our own true self." (David Benner)

Holy Spirit enables us to be **BOLDER.**

Acts 4:31

After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Holy Spirit enables us to be **BRIGHTER.**

1 Corinthians 2:10-12

But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things that God has freely given to us.

"The Spirit-saturated person has Spiritual Intelligence. By the Spirit, that person comprehends the incomprehensible; by the Spirit, that person embraces what was previously unembraceable; by the Spirit, that person sees into her or his heart to a depth previously obstructed." (Scot McKnight)

Where do you need to step more fully into hope?

"We pray that God, the source of hope, will fill us completely with joy and peace because we trust him. Then we will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

NOTES:

*“The Spirit of God transcends human ability and transforms human inability.”
— Jimmy Dunn*



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone, wandered & need to come home.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: Pastor Josh mentions that Holy Spirit can enable us to be 'better'. How is this encouraging? How is this challenging? What other scripture passages can we point to about Holy Spirit's ability to transform us?

:: Pastor Josh suggested that Holy Spirit can enable us to be 'bigger' as we are connected to the cosmic mission of Jesus.

:: How have you found this to be true?

:: What are some ways that you, personally, can use your unique giftings for the benefit of others?

:: Are there any spaces in your life where you need the boldness of the Spirit to intersect with unhealthy fear or anxiety?

:: Reread the Scot McKnight quote from the note-guide.

:: Can you think of other ways that the Spirit of God enhances our spiritual intelligence?

:: Of these four categories of Holy Spirit activity, which one do you sense you need the most right now? Why?

:: What are some rhythms of Holy Spirit saturation? What are the best practices for stepping into the flow of Holy Spirit's power and presence?

:: Consider all three weeks of this Hope in the Dark journey. How did God encourage or challenge you?

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New Living Translation [NLT].
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