

*Early July brings thoughts of celebration, picnics, and happy times with families and friends as we mark another birthday of our nation.* But it is not so for everyone. Fear, loss, and heartache never check our calendars before marching into our lives. Even if life is good right now, we know it can change in an instant. Our greatest need is hope.

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; Paul tells us, because God is the God of all hope. It is His eternal being, His presence, His accomplished work on the cross, His promises to us that are the basis of our hope.

What do our hearts long for and hope for? Deliverance from sin, not the penalty of sin paid for by Jesus, but the removal of our weakness, our propensity to sin. One day we who believe will be made new and sin will be no more! To return to the perfect and right relationship with God, like what was intended in Eden, will resolve all.

We also hope for reunion with those we love, who are not with us anymore. We hope for union with our Savior, who we will see face to face. We hope for all wrongs to be righted. The Bible promises all of this and more.

This hope is strengthened within us by the power of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. If He can raise Christ, He can raise your hope to abound! May this beautiful verse encourage and strengthen you and your family this week.

- What do you long for or hope for in this life?
- What do you look forward to one day in heaven?
- Print this verse and tape it in a place you will see it every day as a reminder of your God who gives hope!

**MAY THE GOD OF  
HOPE FILL YOU WITH  
ALL JOY AND PEACE  
IN BELIEVING, SO  
THAT BY THE POWER  
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
YOU MAY ABOUND IN**

*hope.*

*romans 15:13*