

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

-Ryan Parsons-

I remember as a kid something that would happen when a peer would show up with bubble gum or candy. We would always inquire, "Where did you get that?" Why would we ask such a thing? Because, if at all possible, we would seek out that same source and procure some for ourselves.

Romans 15:13

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.

In Romans 15, Paul's prayer is so clear that they didn't have to ask, "Where did you get that?" The reason is Paul told them.

There used to be a group where I grew up that would march around the city and assemble in front of drug dealers' houses chanting, "Up with hope! Down with dope!" Sadly, they didn't have much success. While their message was good (who doesn't want more hope?), their execution was all wrong.

You can't chant joy, peace, or hope into someone's life. Nor can anyone will it into their own life. We have a problem with saying, "It's too negative around here. GET SOME JOY, PEACE, and HOPE!" Then we try to fabricate it in our mind, spirit, and life. Unfortunately, the results are not long-term sustainable. The good stuff leaves almost as quickly as it came, sort of like a firework when we need a forest fire.

What's the missing ingredient? The Holy Spirit. We are supposed to be filled with him (Ephesians 5:18). However, we rarely discuss him and infrequently seek him while craving the promised products he brings when he is in us. What if we opened ourselves a bit for the Spirit to FILL us? What if we cleaned out some closets, spare bedrooms, and garages in our souls to make more room for him? What if we unlocked the doors and invited him in? What if we became more minimalistic about the things that really don't matter and became obsessed with God filling every aspect of our lives? What if we prayed for a filling of God's power and left the results up to him?

If we do that, I'm pretty sure no one will have to ask, "Where did you get that joy, peace, and hope?" They will already know because they will see that our hope comes from the God **OF HOPE** in us.