

What does it take?

‘But some doubted’

Matthew 28

What does it take?

- ▶ To be happy / joyful
- ▶ To be content
- ▶ To walk by faith
- ▶ To be unselfish??

Matthew 28

- ▶ ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

But the verses just before that:

- ▶ ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; **but some doubted.** ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, . . .

But some doubted?

- ▶ They are standing with the resurrected Jesus, *and still have doubts???*
- ▶ How are you doing?
- ▶ Discouraged? Discouragement and doubt are close cousins

DIScouragement vs. ENCouragement

- ▶ What brings on discouragement?
- ▶ Financial stress?
- ▶ Health issues?
- ▶ Unresolved relationships?
- ▶ The upcoming election?
- ▶ Unanswered prayers?

What brings on encouragement?

1. An active faith
2. Gratefulness
3. Hope renewed
4. What you feed on

1. An active faith

- ▶² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

- ▶ ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.


- ▶ ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. . .
- ▶ ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.
 - ▶ James 1, NIV

2. Gratefulness

- ▶ ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness^[d] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication **with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.

Result:

- ▶⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- ▶⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable,




▶ if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

▶ Philippians 4

3. HOPE RENEWED

▶ But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

▶ Isaiah 40:31



▶ 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.

▶ Romans 15:13

▶ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

▶ Romans 12.1-2

4. WHAT YOU FEED ON

- ▶ ‘you are what you . .
- ▶ Two phrases found in the New Testament:
 1. Fix your eyes
 2. Fix your thoughts

1. FIX YOUR EYES

▶ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

▶ Hebrews 12

2. FIX YOUR THOUGHTS

- ▶ Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix your thoughts on Jesus**, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.
 - ▶ Hebrews 3.1, NIV


Struggling? Change your focus!
You get something new every morning:

- ▶ I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.
²⁰ I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.
²¹ Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:

▶ Because of the LORD's great love we are not
consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

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- ▶ ²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;
 - ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

▶ But there's one other thing I remember,
and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:

▶ ²²⁻²⁴ GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.

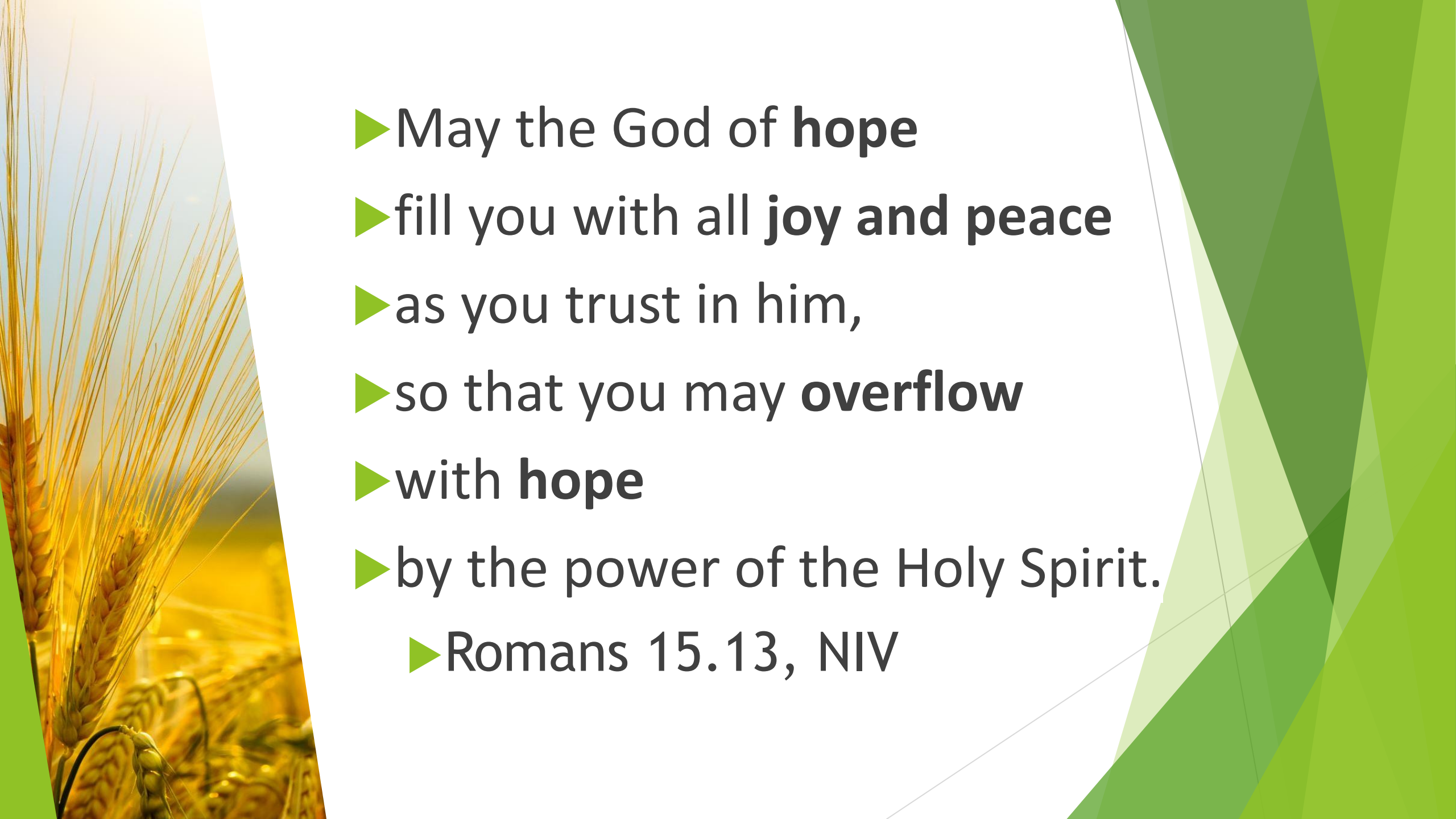
They're created new every morning.

How great your faithfulness!

I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over).

He's all I've got left.

▶ The Message

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- ▶ 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.
 - ▶ Romans 15.13, NIV

*And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.”*

Matthew 28.20