

Week of July 1-7

## **SPIRITUAL WEEBLES**

**Scripture Reading:** Read Romans chapter 15

We can live weeks without food, days without water, minutes without air but only seconds without hope. Without hope, a game is lost. Without hope, the war ends in defeat. Without hope, folks stop trying. Without hope, people die.

The world in which we live today is struggling to find hope. Everywhere we turn, it seems we find bad news: freak storms, economic difficulties, threats of war, cannibalistic drug users and that's just today's news! People are growing increasingly concerned for the future; their own and, most certainly, their children's.

If ever there was a time for the message of Romans, it's now. It's a veritable well of hope. Just take a look:

- ★ *Against all hope, Abraham **in hope** believed and so became the father of many nations...* (4:18)
- ★ *...And we rejoice **in the hope** of the glory of God.* (5:2)
- ★ *...we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, **hope**. And **hope** does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* (5:4-5)
- ★ *For **in this hope** we were saved...* (8:24)
- ★ *Be joyful **in hope**, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* (12:12)
- ★ *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have **hope**.* (15:4)
- ★ *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.* (15:13)

With this much hope overflowing from God, how could we ever become hopeless? Oh, this doesn't mean we won't go through difficulties. We will, but as Paul notes above, the difficulties only produce more hope in us when we choose to trust Christ in the process. In effect, we're "Spiritual Weebles." You remember what a Weeble is, don't you? They were egg-shaped toys that had a weight located at the bottom-center. When you tipped them over, they would wobble for a while but then return to an upright position. That is a wonderful illustration of what it is to live with Christ as our base. It's why Paul could tell the Corinthians: *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* What's true of Paul is true also of you, for you have "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" as a foundation for your soul. You may wobble but you won't fall down!

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Have you been wobbling lately and feeling like you're going down for the count? Reread the hope verses above and, then, pray Rom 15:13.

**Take-a-way:** ***We may wobble but we don't fall down when our foundation is Christ!***