

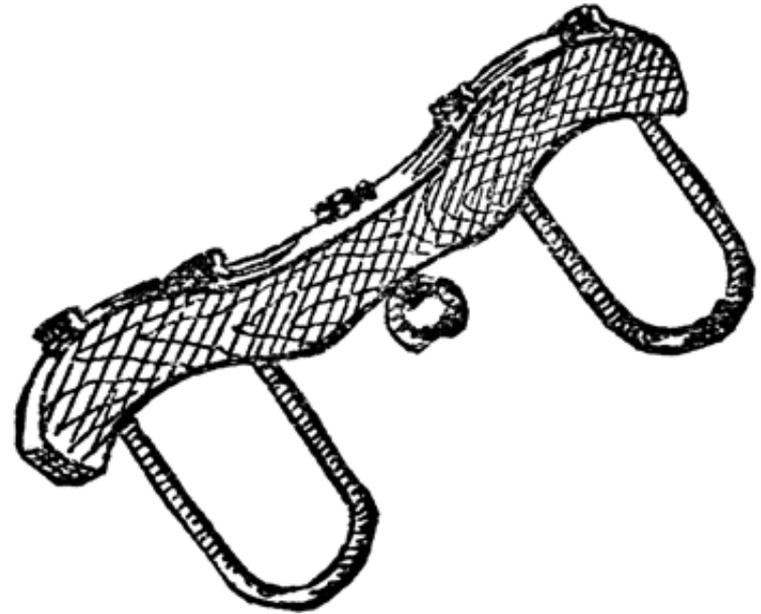
Romans 15:13-16

Full, Complete, Competent



Vs. 13 – A transitional benediction of sorts

Paul has concluded his “arguments” to persuade the two schools of thought to come together under one banner – the banner of “Christ alone”. Throughout this treatise of Romans, he has spoken to the **Gentiles** of the historical value of the **Jewish** element in the church, and he has spoken to the **Jewish** element of the value of the **Gentiles** to the future plans of God. The Jews provided doctrinal stability, and the Gentiles provided a new, refreshing openness and enthusiasm for the Gospel and for evangelism! Together, they will be equally yoked to the purposes of God to conquer the world!



Vs. 13 cont... – A transitional benediction

If the two sides will listen to Paul and come together through heeding his incontrovertible arguments, they will be blessed with God's unique "*hope*", "*joy*", "*peace*", and "*trust*". These are powerful emotions - absolutely motivational in creating an "overflow" of true spiritual energy! The great commission *runs on* spiritual energy! It is in this inner emotional environment of *hope* – of this spiritual optimism - that the Holy Spirit does His most powerful work!



What is it that the power of the Spirit does in individual Christians?



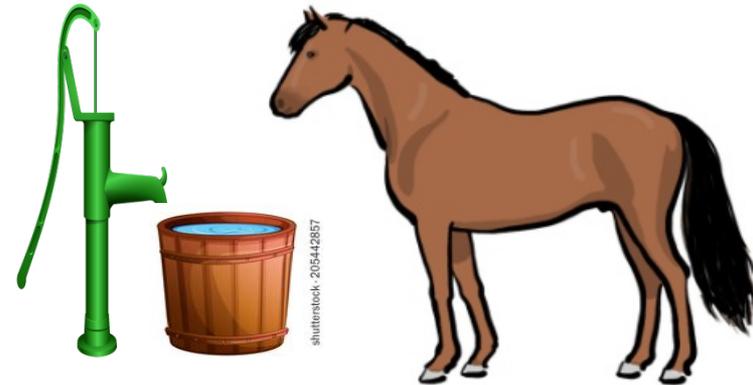
Gal. 5:22 - Fruit – Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control / perseverance, knowledge, forgiveness, etc...

2 Pet. 1:3-11 – “...*through them* (the fruit) *you might participate in the Divine Nature and escape the corruption in the world... in increasing measure*” (v.4, 8)!

Vs. 14 – He (Paul) has given them the information that they need to succeed in their new life! He is “convinced” of their ultimate success! His optimism is not based upon His knowledge of human beings, but upon the work of the Holy Spirit. His confidence is not in them, but in God!

Who do you have confidence in?! Yourself? Others? God?

[Ph’p 1:6] -



Competency comes from

- 1) biblical **knowledge**,
- 2) combined with obedience (**goodness**),
- 3) combined with **hope**.

Competency in following Jesus requires all three of these elements. Together they create a synergy in a person that is necessary in following Jesus successfully. If any one of these elements are missing, *the synergy of competence is robbed of its energy!*



Synergy - The combined power of a group of things working together that is greater than the power of each separate thing by itself.

The **hope** that is so necessary to achieving success in the purposes of God, springs from

- 1) **personally** exercising the character of God (Fruit of the Spirit) and also
- 2) from *observing* the character of God (Fruit of the Spirit) exercised by **other believers** in the community, at church, and at home. Hope creates encouragement which then generates energy, and *many* are made hopeful when people truly love each other! Corporate hope is wonderful to experience and very useful to God!



. The observation of people loving people and truly caring for them is a beautiful and encouraging thing! It creates **hope** (“I’m connected to **something epically authentic and important**”), and hope generates **energy** as *the many* (the church) *are made hopeful because* they observe that the people in the church are continually, consistently, loving each other in word and in action!



Vs. 16 – *“I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again...”*

Paul has made his theological arguments, but they had previously heard all of this before and knew where he stood on these matters! But now they (and we) had it in writing and it has proven invaluable in the church’s understanding that Christ stands alone in salvation. Moses does not stand alongside, but behind Jesus! Nothing can be added to His salvation to supplement or enhance it! It is perfect and complete in itself! All salvation requires is obedience to the will of God by conformity with the character of God. *Salvation is the plant, created by God and perfect in itself. Our **obedience** is like water to the plant. Without water, a plant withers away and dies. Likewise, without obedience, salvation withers away and dies. *Parable of the sower



Obedience, in the form of the fruit of salvation looses blessing upon the church and the world! It unleashes salvation's potential - freeing it to do what it was designed to do by Divine engineering. The objectives of God in **salvation** (faith in Christ alone), **are only met through obedience** (taking on the characteristics of the character of God), and **purpose - taking on the objectives of God to woo and win the world back to Himself!**

