DAY 20

Romans 5:1-5

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:1-5

This is a tough passage of Scripture! On one hand it contains incredible truth about what is ours in Christ but on the other hand it calls us to embrace suffering in our lives with joy because of how God will use it to produce Christ-like character in us. No one enjoys suffering and this passage is not asking us to do so. This passage calls us to rejoice in the assurance that even the worst things that could happen to us in this life can be used by God to make us more like Jesus. When we read this passage through the lens of eternity rather than our human perspective we discover the incredible hope that the gospel gives us. 1) We have already been declared right before Holy God because of what Christ did for us. It is a finished work! 2) This finished work of Jesus gives us access to a loving, personal relationship with God through the indwelling of His Spirit in us. 3) Because of this new identity that is ours in Christ we no longer have to live in fear of what this world can do to us. It is no wonder that Paul says we "rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." When was the last time you stopped and looked at your life from this perspective? Take time today and be encouraged in a fresh way by the beauty of the gospel at work in your life.

How can you apply this passage to your life? Write your reflections in the space below.

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30 Days Of HOPE