



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Faith Beyond Our Circumstances

Speaker: Jill Smith

Highlighted Scripture

- **Romans 5:1–5**

Because we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Paul explains that suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope—a hope that does not disappoint because of God's love poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

- **John 16:33**

Jesus tells His followers that they will experience trouble in this world, but they can take heart because He has overcome the world. Our peace is found in Him, not in the absence of trials.

Discussion Questions

- **Jill says that faith is ultimately faith in the person of Jesus, not simply faith that our circumstances will change. Why is**

that distinction so important?

- **Romans 5 teaches that suffering produces endurance, character, and hope. How have you seen God use a difficult season to strengthen your faith?**
- **Why is it sometimes easier to trust God for eternity than to trust Him with today's struggles?**
- **Jill reminds us that healing may not always look the way we expect. How can that perspective help us continue trusting God during unanswered prayers?**
- **What does it practically look like to pray, "Not my will, but Yours be done," when facing hardship?**

Reflection Challenge

Choose to anchor your faith in Christ rather than your circumstances.

Ask yourself:

- **Is my peace dependent on my situation changing, or on knowing Jesus is with me?**
- **Have I allowed disappointment to weaken my trust in God's character?**
- **How can I intentionally fix my eyes on Christ instead of my circumstances?**

Try this:

- **Read Romans 5:1–5 and thank God that He is producing something eternal through every trial.**

- **When worry begins to grow, pause and pray, "Lord, help me trust Your character even when I don't understand Your plan."**
- **Write down one way God has remained faithful during a difficult season in your life.**
- **Encourage someone who is suffering by reminding them of Christ's promise to never leave His people.**

Remember

- **Faith is rooted in who Jesus is, not merely in what He does.**
- **God's peace is available even when our circumstances remain difficult.**
- **Suffering can become a tool God uses to grow endurance, character, and hope.**
- **Jesus has already overcome the world.**
- **Our greatest hope is found in Christ and the coming Kingdom.**

Prayer

Father God,

Thank You that my faith rests in Your unchanging character rather than in changing circumstances. When trials come, help me trust that You are still good, still present, and still working for my good. Strengthen my endurance, shape my character, and deepen my hope as I follow You. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, knowing that He has overcome the world and that my ultimate hope is secure in Him.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

