

The Book of Romans Chapter 5:1-5

Main Idea: Because we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God. Because we have peace with God, suffering does not have to be wasted. God can use it to produce perseverance, character, and hope.

The Process: Most people want the reward, but fewer people want the process. In Romans 5, Paul shows us a process God can work in us. The result is beautiful, but the process is not easy. It will test us, stretch us, and form something in us that we could not manufacture on our own.

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul begins with what is already true for the believer. We have been justified through faith. We have peace with God. We have access into grace. This means the Christian does not suffer as someone abandoned by God. We suffer as people who stand in grace.

Romans 5:3-4 “We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

Three Ways We Suffer

1. We suffer because we live in a fallen world. Romans 8:22 says that creation has been groaning. Disease, disasters, broken bodies, and random pain remind us that sin has touched all of creation.
2. We suffer because of other people’s sin. People make sinful choices, and those choices hurt others. Betrayal, lies, harsh words, neglect, abuse, and careless actions can cause deep suffering.
3. We suffer because of our own sin. Sometimes our own choices bring pain into our lives. We can ignore God’s commands and make our lives harder. At times, we are our own worst enemy.

Suffering Produces Perseverance: Perseverance is the ability to keep going when life is hard. It is spiritual endurance. Suffering builds capacity. We keep moving forward, not because it is enjoyable, but because we must. Like physical training builds stamina, suffering can build perseverance in us. Slowly, we learn that suffering did not destroy us. God gives us strength to take another step.

Perseverance Produces Character: In suffering, we learn about ourselves. We learn about God. We learn what we actually believe about God. Pressure reveals what is already in us, and it gives God space to shape what still needs to grow. Character is doing the next right thing in Christ, even when it is hard and even when we do not feel like it. God often uses hard lessons to teach us dependence. Instead of trying to handle everything ourselves, suffering can teach us to come to Him first, trust Him with it, and walk with Him in it.

Character Produces Hope: This is where the world does not understand the Christian. It is the Christian with cancer praising God. It is the Christian whose life has been hard and yet still chooses kindness. This kind of hope comes from God.

Our Hope Is Twofold

1. We have hope for here and now. Romans 8:31-39 reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Remember, He is with me. In pain, He is with me. In grief, He is with me. In weakness, He is with me. In the darkest night, He is with me.
2. We have hope for what is coming. 1 Corinthians 15:19 reminds us that our hope is not only for this life. Revelation 21:3-4 points us to the day when God will dwell with His people, wipe every tear from their eyes, and remove death, mourning, crying, and pain. This life is not as good as it gets. For the Christian, this is as bad as it gets. Christ is with us now, and He will make all things new.

Remember, rejoicing in suffering does not mean calling evil good. God is not asking us to be grateful that someone hurt us. God is not asking us to pretend abuse was a blessing. Paul is saying something different. God is so good and so sovereign that even what should not have happened does not get the final word.