

Romans 5:3–5

³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Glorying in Tribulation Romans 5:1-5

INTRO:

Paul wrote about our salvation in **3:21-4:25**. He taught us the only way we can be saved is because imputed the righteousness of Christ to our account. In **Chapter 5**, the Apostle underlined three benefits of justification. First, we have God's Shalom.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:1). Second, we have access into the grace in which we stand. In other words, we can come directly into the presence of the living God.

“Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2) Today we will explore the third benefit of our justification. We cannot boast in our salvation because it is all of God. But we can boast in God Himself, and the fact that all things fall out to His glory. And, we can boast in our suffering because the Lord is working in these troubles.

I. PERSEVERANCE

II. EXPERIENCE

III. HOPE

I. PERSEVERANCE

Romans 5:3 *“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.”*

A. I have Good news, although you might not appreciate it as good news. Suffering will come into you lives. The writers of Scripture make this clear. Perhaps the most famous of these is in **James 1:2-4**.

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

1. How can we rejoice when suffering comes? Does Paul and God expect us to become some kind of spiritual masochists? No. We rejoice because trials never happen without a divine purpose!

2. The general purpose for suffering and why we should boast/rejoice in them is a result of our justification.

B. How then are we to deal with our trials? The Apostle wants us to know when trouble intrudes into our lives, we hurt, but we can rise up above the difficulty because we “[*know*] **tribulation produces perseverance.**” The word here is *hupomone* it means “**patience, steadfastness, perseverance, or stick-to-it-iveness.**”

1. Why in the world do we want hupomone? The short answer is because God wants us to develop it. In **Hebrews 10:35-36** says, “**Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise**”

We need endurance so we will hold on until the blessing comes for our obedience!

2. The only way we can strengthen our patience is through spiritual exercise. This is spiritual therapy. God allows trials to come to build our spiritual endurance, steadfastness, persistence. He is creating greater spiritual strength and stamina.

II. EXPERIENCE

A. We can rejoice in our tribulations because tribulation works endurance. The second step in our spiritual therapy is experience.

v. 4 “**And perseverance, character; and character, hope.**”

1. The Greek word translated “**experience**” is translated different ways. The King James has it “**experience.**” The New King James and the NIV translates this word “**character,**” while the NASB translates it, “**proven character.**” The Greek word means “**(the process or result of) trial, proving, approval.**” When it is used of people it can mean to be proven dependable.

2. Out of our trial comes the experience that shows us that we belong to Him. This is because trials cause us to rush to our Lord's side and to seek His face often and passionately. When He comforts us through the trial and gives peace that passes all understanding and then ultimately delivers us either through or from the trial, we have gained very precious experience. We know that we can weather the storm if He is in the boat, and we also know that we are His, because He has cared for us!

B. It also can be translated character because trials change us. I am sure if you had been in the furnace room with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, you would have found the three men who stepped out of the fire were different people from the three who had been thrown into the furnace. Trials produce spiritual muscles, and spiritual muscles produce experience and character.

III. HOPE

Romans 5:5 *“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

A. Suffering produces endurance and endurance produces experience and character, and finally, our character produces hope.

B. Remember *hope* here is not a "hope so" kind of hope. Rather this hope is a certainty. The hope we are thinking about here is a certainty that we belong to the Lord Jesus. That as the song says, *"I am His and He is mine."* We become certain that we are His through the ministry that we receive from Him in the midst of our trials. This is what Paul says in **verse 5**.

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

We know through our trials and tribulations that the Lord loves us because He pours out His love in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Afflictions and troubles come to believers. Anyone who says otherwise calls the Apostle Paul a liar.

Afflictions come only if they are divinely appointed necessity.

1 Peter 1:6 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,”*

We never go through trials alone.

Psalms 23:4 *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

We can rejoice in our afflictions because they show we are God's and He uses them to make us spiritually stronger. Afflictions produces perseverance. Perseverance produces proven character, and character a sense of certainty in our hearts that God loves us.

Hymn #490 ***I am His and He Is Mine***