

# ROMANS: The Gospel of God

## Chapter 5

### Introduction:

1. To rightly appreciate salvation and the gift of eternal life, a person needs to comprehend sin and its judgment.
  - a. After Paul's greeting in this epistle (1:1-17), he thoroughly condemned Gentiles and Jews (1:18 – 3:20).
  - b. He condemned all men for rejecting the revealed truth in creation and providence and nature (1:18-1:32).
  - c. He put all men on notice that even the best were accumulating wrath for the Day of Judgment (2:1-11).
  - d. He explained that all men were guilty whether they had Moses' written law or conscience of it (2:12-16).
  - e. He condemned Jews for their arrogance about having the written law though disobeying it (2:17 – 3:8).
  - f. He then condemned all men by their known character and conduct and rejection of God's law (3:9-20).
2. The price for rebellion against creation, providence, nature, conscience, and scripture is infinite punishment.
  - a. Every soul will stand before Christ's Judgment Seat ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/judgment-seat-of-christ.pdf>.
  - b. All unsaved sinners will spend eternity in tormenting fire ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/warnings-about-hell.pdf>.
  - c. The whole universe will be destroyed by the wrath of God ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/end-of-universe.pdf>.
3. Therefore, the concept and doctrine of salvation from this sentence and gift of eternal life are truly incredible.
  - a. Paul's opening statement about salvation called it a free gift claimed by faith without the law (3:21-31).
  - b. He took Jews to Abraham to see he was declared righteous before circumcision or Moses' law (4:1-25).
4. Therefore, Romans chapter five is the positive explanation with the details of God's grace in Jesus Christ.
  - a. Having introduced justification by Jesus' death and resurrection, Paul listed five present benefits (5:1-5).
  - b. He then explained in detail how these benefits were secured by Jesus Christ death and now life (5:6-11).
  - c. If showing that Abram was justified without law was inadequate, he took us all back to Adam (5:12-19).
  - d. No other place in the Bible details original sin, federal headship, representation, and imputation like this.
  - e. Having proved salvation by Jesus alone, Paul briefly showed Moses' law only a teacher of condemnation.
  - f. He declared the reigning claim of sin and death being destroyed by the reign of grace and righteousness.
  - g. The great victory of saving enemy rebels from His righteous wrath to heaven is by Jesus Christ our Lord.
5. For plain, powerful details of the legal and practical phases of salvation, this may be the Bible's best chapter.
  - a. Learn the chapter's sections so as to have smaller pieces to more fully consider and deeply meditate upon.
  - b. Learn the chapter's sections to share specific doctrine with others and answer heresies of false teachers.

### Suggested Reading:

Genesis 3

Romans 8

### Simple Outline:

- 5:1-5 Five Present Blessings for Believers after Free Justification  
5:6-11 Details of Jesus Christ's Purchase of Salvation and Blessings  
5:12-19 Two Adams and Imputation – Similarities and Differences  
5:20-21 Sin and Death Reigned, but Grace and Righteousness Won

\*\*\*\*\* Five Present Blessings for Believers after Free Justification – Verses 1-5 \*\*\*\*\*

## ***1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:***

*Therefore.*

- A. Paul drew a conclusion from his defense of justification by faith without any works of Moses' law.
  1. God delivered Jesus to death and raised Him from death for our gift of righteousness (4:23-25).
  2. Legal justification took place at the cross, by God's eternal counsel, and laid hold of by our faith.
  3. Our faith, like Abraham's faith, is the evidence of a saved man that God declares to be righteous.

4. Our faith, like Abraham's faith and Phinehas' zeal, is counted to us as evidence of righteousness.
  5. This word, *therefore*, draws a conclusion meaning his arguments against the law were sufficient.
  6. This word, *therefore*, draws a conclusion meaning that believers are at peace by the Lord's work.
  7. Make sure you grasp Abraham's timeline (slides) ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/abrahams-faith-slides.pdf>.
  8. Make sure you grasp Abraham's timeline (table) ... <https://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/timeline-of-abraham.pdf>.
- B. He had already proven Gentiles and Jews condemned (1:18 – 3:20), free justification by grace (3:21-26), and the exclusion of all works of the law having any role, including for Abraham (3:27 – 4:25).
- C. Once a doctrine is established as truth, then it is time to proceed to its benefits and/or its duties.
1. Paul followed this course – doctrine, then its application – at Rom 12:1; Eph 4:1; Heb 10:19; etc.
  2. His listing of practical benefits and duties is in the next five verses before more proofs of grace.

### *Being justified by faith.*

- A. Paul had proven justification – declaration that a person is righteous before God – from 3:19 to 4:25.
1. He had denied law works by many proofs, including circumcision coming too late for Abraham.
  2. He had proven Abram was declared righteous by faith in a recorded event in his life (Gen 15:6).
  3. Abraham had faith and works long before the event used by Paul (Gen 15:6), but it was for Jews.
  4. We know we are righteous in God's sight by our faith as evidence and assurance of justification.
  5. God counts our faith as evidence of righteousness, like for Abraham's faith and Phinehas' zeal.
- B. We are to understand at this point that justification has been proven as a completed work, for Paul sought to move forward to practical benefits flowing from and depending on our peace with God.
1. Paul did not elaborate on the details, nature, or place of faith, as James, Peter, and he will do in other places, for his purpose was to make faith and works of Moses' law mutually exclusive.
  2. The faith here is our faith, not God's or Christ's faith, as Abrahamic evidence of righteousness.
  3. It is important to see the phases of justification, as Paul had declared again the legal work finished by our Lord (4:25). See ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/salvation/when-were-you-saved.htm>.
  4. If you have not yet grasped the difference between God's eternal purpose to justify and Christ's legal purchase of justification from our evidential claims to it, then review chapters 3-4.
  5. The text here is mainly our assurance, comprehension, and conviction of righteousness by faith.
- C. Since our justification – a most necessary thing – is settled forever, Paul presented other blessings.
- D. These blessings are impossible by any other plan of salvation – only grace and faith in Christ's work.
1. The cost of these blessings was Jesus' death: our peace, standing, joy, hope, and the Holy Ghost.
  2. The claim and key for the blessings is our faith in His finished work, both of which are His gifts.
  3. The presence and power of these blessings is the Holy Spirit (John 7:39; Acts 2:33; Rom 15:13).

### *We have peace with God.*

- A. Here is the first of at least five great spiritual blessings in life coming from justification in Christ.
- B. There is no other plan of salvation able to obtain perfect peace between God and sinners. Glory!
1. Peace is the end of hostilities and strife for two once-antagonistic parties to now be friendly.
  2. Justification declares us righteous by Jesus Christ's work, which makes us acceptable to God.
  3. Peace resulted when the legal claims of divine justice against us for our crimes were removed.
  4. Peace resulted in our own hearts when we heard the glad tidings of this acceptance in the gospel.
  5. But peace by itself is a limited term – merely an end of enmity, strife, and war – if in God only.
  6. When God is at peace with us, and we are at peace with Him, fellowship and friendship results.
  7. God's wrath is terrible against sinners, but His affection and delight is warm to the righteous.
  8. Abraham is the example of justification by faith, but he is also the example of the friend of God.
  9. Not only is Abraham friend of God, but heaven itself, the abode of God, is Abraham's bosom.
- C. Other facets of salvation that are closely related by meaning are acceptance, mediation, pardon, propitiation, reconciliation, satisfaction, atonement, but especially reconciliation (II Cor 5:18-21).
1. Paul will close out the next section of this chapter by lifting up atonement with God (Rom 5:11).

2. The Day of Atonement was Israel's most significant holy day on the tenth of the seventh month.
3. For more about Israel's great Day of Atonement ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/day-of-atonement-diagram.pdf>.
- D. Peace with God is crucial, since He is violently angry against sinners outside Christ's justification.
  1. God is angry at the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11); He will not ever allow them peace (Is 48:22).
  2. Sin is rebellion against God and His command; He is rightfully angry and furious at sinners.
  3. Peace is crucial in light of destruction of the universe ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/end-of-universe.pdf>.
- E. There is *peace from God's side* – satisfaction of divine justice for our acceptance (Is 53:11; Eph 1:6).
  1. This is legal peace purchased by Jesus Christ's bloody, substitutionary death for guilty sinners.
  2. It was gloriously prophesied in Isaiah 53:5 and Daniel 9:24 as one of Messiah's great works.
  3. It was gloriously prophesied in Haggai 2:9 to occur in Zerubbabel's temple, which did occur.
  4. It was gloriously prophesied in Luke 2:14 by angels announcing the birth of Jesus the Christ.
  5. It was gloriously prophesied in Luke 19:37-40 by an inspired crowd before our Lord's death.
  6. It was gloriously fulfilled at the cross (II Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:13-19; Col 1:19-23).
- F. Then there is *peace from our side* – the glorious news that peace has been secured by Jesus Christ.
  1. Notice carefully the difference between reconciliation and the message about it (II Cor 5:18-21).
  2. It is this sense, knowing we are no longer God's enemies, that we understand this particular text.
  3. Note carefully the difference between the peace obtained and the peace preached (Eph 2:14,17).
  4. The law never truly brought peace but only a remembrance of sin (Heb 10:1-4). Grasp it fully.
  5. The beautiful feet of gospel preachers bring glad tidings of peace to ears (Rom 10:15; Eph 6:15).
  6. We may now enter God's holy presence with boldness by faith (Matt 27:51; Hebrews 10:19-22).
  7. There cannot be peace where there is fear, so then why do you still fear God (I John 4:17-19)?
  8. The fear of God taught and required in the Bible is not contradictory to this peace in any way.
  9. There cannot be peace with guilt, but why do you still feel guilty? Believe the pardon preached.
  10. There cannot be peace with doubts, but why do you still doubt? Believe the news with an oath.
  11. It is perverse, pagan ignorance and superstition that causes them to sacrifice children for peace.
  12. See Nebuchadnezzar and Jerusalem, forfeiting peace and tranquility (Dan 4:27; Luke 19:41-44).
  13. Have you laid aside as filthy rags all your righteousness and confidence to flee to Christ alone?
  14. It is in Jesus Christ you find rest for your souls, for the war is over (Matt 11:28-30; Heb 4:1-11).
  15. If we have such peace with God, how can we not easily seek peace with all men (Rom 12:18; 14:17,19; James 3:14-18; Matt 5:9; II Cor 13:11; Eph 4:3; Col 3:15; I Thess 5:13; Heb 12:14).
- G. For more about peace with God through Jesus, see ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/prince-of-peace.pdf>.

### *Through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- A. The great legal work of peacemaker with God was by our one and only Mediator (I Timothy 2:5).
  1. All glory is to be given to Jesus Christ for dying and now living to gain everlasting peace for us.
  2. He is the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6-7). He made peace with God by His substitutionary death, and He will make universal peace by the destruction of all God's enemies (I Cor 15:24-25).
  3. Jesus also yet lives as our mediating High Priest for peace (Romans 5:10; 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).
  4. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek – King of Salem, or King of Peace (Heb 7:1-3).
  5. Jesus is our high priest, our older brother, our king – He has brought us into the family of God.
- B. Without Jesus Christ, God hates the wicked and is angry with them every day, denying them peace in this world or the next (Ps 5:4-6; 7:11; 9:16-17; 11:4-6; Isaiah 48:22; 57:21; Rev 19:15; 20:10-15).
- C. How can this great God of wrath and vengeance be known as the God of peace (Rom 15:33; 16:20; II Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; I Thes 5:23; II Thes 3:16; He 13:20-21)? Through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- D. Why and how is every epistle of the New Testament opened and/or closed with a blessing of peace (Rom 1:7; I Tim 1:2; I Peter 1:1-2; Rev 1:4; etc.)? Through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- E. Jesus taught peace to His apostles before dying – He gave them a new concept of peace (Jn 14:27).
- F. Let it be remembered that Jesus did not come to bring peace in all ways for all men (Matt 10:34-37).
- G. Consider well how *You Need a Lawyer* ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/christ/you-need-a-lawyer/sermon.php>.

## ***2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

*By whom also.*

- A. This *also* connects two things ... justification and peace with God (5:1) and four blessings to follow.
  - 1. The word *also* means that two things are in view – something in verse one and something here.
  - 2. Faith is how we believe, claim, embrace, and trust in Christ for justification and peace with God.
  - 3. Faith is how we access additional blessings (*also*) of our present gracious standing before God.
  - 4. Observe *not only so* and *also* that occurs again in the following verse to connect this list together.
  - 5. Jesus accomplished more for us by His death than just pardon from sin and rescue from hellfire.
  - 6. Without His death and intercession for us, there could be no peace or loving affection from God.
- B. The *whom* here is a pronoun harking back to the Lord Jesus Christ as its glorious antecedent (5:1).
  - 1. Every spiritual blessing and privilege of time and eternity were purchased by the Lord Jesus.
  - 2. The preposition *by* indicates the source and means of these blessings – our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 3. You owe God and Jesus Christ everything for all blessing – the Father gave up His Son for you.
  - 4. Notice the lead-in (4:25) and lead-out (5:6-11) of the purchase price for these earthly benefits.
- C. There is more that Jesus Christ has done for us and obtained for us than glorious peace with God.
- D. You will never fully plumb the depths of grace or measure spiritual blessings in Him (Eph 3:14-21).
- E. Note how Paul must resort to the words, *And not only so*, in both 5:3 and 5:11. It is gospel piling on!

*We have access by faith.*

- A. Faith is the accessing instrument for our practical benefits of fellowship with God while on earth.
  - 1. We are truly sick of decisional regeneration, but faith is life-changing trust in God to do exploits.
  - 2. Paul's *Hall of Faith* and Daniel's *Maccabees* should move our faith (Dan 11:32; Heb 11:1-40).
  - 3. When we believe God's record about His Son, He will give strength to overcome (I John 5:1-13).
  - 4. The Father loves the Son and made Him the Morning Star of the Drama, believe for blessings.
  - 5. Faith and fellowship are in direct proportion – the greater your faith, the greater your fellowship.
  - 6. When gifts, declarations, and promises of love are made, disbelief or disinterest is destructive.
  - 7. When instead there is full belief and excitement, then the mutual relationship explodes with joy.
- B. Jesus secured something wonderful – for justified believers – fellowship with God (I John 1:1-4).
- C. Look at what can be true in your life with and by simple faith – joy, peace, and hope (Rom 15:13).
- D. You can believe on Christ and walk on water, or you can disbelieve Him and drown in your fears.

*Into this grace wherein we stand.*

- A. Here is the second of at least five great spiritual blessings in life coming from justification in Christ.
- B. We believe in salvation by grace, but this is a gracious life on earth we enjoy by faith in our Lord.
  - 1. Savor this purchased position and addition to justification – there is so much more than acquittal.
  - 2. We do not stand in heaven yet, but we can stand in gracious favor and fellowship of God now.
  - 3. Paul wanted more than doctrines of grace ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/pauline-priority-ephesians-2-6-2019.pdf>
  - 4. Paul described Spirit blessings beyond salvation ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/holy-spirit-in-ephesians.pdf>
- C. Jesus accomplished more for us by His death than just pardon from sin and rescue from hellfire.
  - 1. While we are gloriously pardoned, redeemed, and sanctified for heaven, there is so much more.
  - 2. Simple justification – legal acquittal – is wonderful, but reconciliation and adoption rises higher.
  - 3. Election is nice, but not inheritance (I Pet 1:1-4)! Joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Pet 1:6-8)!
  - 4. Who had fellowship and friendship with Christ greater than John, but he wants you (I Jn 1:1-4).
- D. Justified believers have the further benefit and blessing of fellowship on earth with God as Father.
  - 1. Grace is unmerited favor and blessings, or better yet, demerited favor and blessings from God.
  - 2. We may walk with God, boldly approach God, and have God draw nigh to us through grace.

3. Fellowship with God is far more and way beyond mere justification, like friendship trumps acquittal (Rom 8:15; 14:17; Acts 16:34; Eph 2:18; 3:12; Phil 2:1; I Thess 2:14; Hebrews 4:3).
4. Jesus came to bring life, spiritual and eternal, and He intended it more abundantly (John 10:10).
5. Those who believe on Him receive the indwelling presence of God Himself (Jn 14:15-27; etc.).
6. Are you curious about this state of grace? Consider approach to God (Heb 4:14-16; 10:19-22)!
7. Your body and church is the living God's temple (I Cor 3:16; 6:19-20; Eph 2:19-22; I Tim 3:15).
8. Taking our citizenship a step further, consider the glory of heavenly Sion (Hebrews 12:22-24).
- E. Do you wonder what grace Paul might be considering? What about the grace and glory of adoption!
  1. John described our adoption as sons as a present blessing by the timing word *now* (I John 3:1-3).
  2. Though this chapter began with justification, adoption is clearly far higher by any measurement.
  3. For much more about the glory of adoption as sons of God ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/sons-of-god.pdf>.
  4. For more about being accepted and adopted by God ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/accepted-and-adopted.pdf>.
- F. Are you still wondering? Consider seven promised blessings for perfect holiness (II Cor 6:14 – 7:1).
- G. In this grace wherein we stand, we are made kings and priests before God (Mal 3:3-4; Rev 1:5-6).
- H. Still wonder? How can a person have unspeakable joy in tribulation (I Peter 1:6-9)? By Jesus Christ!
- I. Consider the wonderful words on our present standing in Isaac Watts' song, *Marching to Zion* ([here](#)).

*And rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

- A. Here is the third of at least five great spiritual blessings in life coming from justification in Christ.
- B. *Hope* here is patient waiting and eager anticipation of being in God's glorious presence for eternity.
  1. Glory we will have in God's presence crushes any suffering experienced here (Rom 8:17-18).
  2. The fantastic manifestation of God's sons to the universe should cause great joy (Rom 8:19-25).
  3. For the hope of Christians is not mere wishful thinking but certain expectation (Rom 8:24-25).
  4. Since salvation ends in glorification, we should rejoice in coming total victory (Rom 8:30-37).
  5. For more about *Redemption and Inheritance* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/redemption-and-inheritance.pdf>.
- C. Your light affliction here cannot be compared to a coming eternal weight of glory (II Cor 4:17-18).
- D. It is the great and lively expectation of eternal inheritance (Eph 1:13-14; I Pet 1:3-4; II Pet 3:13-14).
  1. Men get excited every week with the approach of Friday (TGIF), though nothing in comparison.
  2. You get excited and work becomes easy knowing a vacation is approaching. Are you kidding?
  3. Your mind fills with plans and excitement to take your ease with retirement. Are you kidding?
  4. Where is your joy for the God of the universe having willed you and reserved you the universe?
- E. There is a different kind of *hope* in context – confidence God can deliver you from tribulation (5:4).

***3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;***

*And not only so.*

- A. Precious words! They agree fully with the adverb *also* in 5:2 continuing a list. Christ has done more.
- B. What precious words! They also agree entirely with the adverb *also* right here. Christ has done more.
- C. What precious words! Paul must use them again in a few verses to augment our salvation (5:11).
- D. What so far? Peace with God (5:1), grace wherein we stand (5:2), and rejoicing in hope (5:2).

*But we glory in tribulations also.*

- A. Here is the fourth of at least five great spiritual blessings in life coming from justification in Christ.
- B. Glory in tribulations? How? This is either insane craziness or a fantastic blessing from Jesus Christ.
  1. **Glory.** To exult with triumph, rejoice proudly. [OED.] Compare how used in Jeremiah 9:23-24.
  2. **Tribulation.** A condition of great affliction, oppression, or misery. [OED.] See context of 8:35.
  3. Believers who know they are saved can count pain, suffering, and trials as all joy (James 1:2-4).

4. If justified with God, there is no fear or confusion from suffering and troubles of a sinful world.
  5. Peace with God and eternal inheritance are sure; temporal troubles are no problem for believers.
  6. Tribulations are part of the life of believers, but they can glory in them (John 16:33; Acts 14:22).
  7. Consolation of eternal rest should outweigh any troubles here (Rom 8:17-18; II Cor 4:17-18).
  8. But sooner and more practical is God's gracious comfort and strength to endure or escape them.
  9. God planned them, is beside you in them, and will surely get you through them. Glory in them!
- C. Glorifying in tribulations is not a masochistic love of self-inflicted pain, like monks or nuns, or like the foolish and pagan ritualistic traditions of crucifixions in Mexico and the Philippines.
1. Glorifying in tribulation is aligning oneself with Jesus Christ's suffering, like Paul did (Phil 3:10).
  2. Glorifying in tribulation is also evidence of eternal life, for God works this change (II Thes 1:4-6).
  3. Glorifying in tribulation can be to exalt God's strength by weakness (II Cor 12:7-10). Note *glory!*
  4. Glorifying in tribulation can be based on your Father's pity, strength to endure, or way of escape.
- D. The future hope of glory is not all that Jesus Christ gives – there is also a present sense of hope now.
1. God planned them, is with you in them, and has a planned end for you. He wants to rescue you.
  2. He wants you to know His love for you by all means, not just inheritance, but also deliverance.
  3. You call fathers great that arrange for the best schools (hardest) and best jobs after (rewards).
  4. God our Father wants you to appreciate Him for more than Calvary and for more than heaven.
  5. We understand working hard to complete a difficult assignment for the reward. Love it here.
- E. True faith in God recognizes His providential design and loving hand in all our trials for our profit.
1. Weak faith lays hold of Jesus Christ and heaven to shake off fear and discouragement from trials.
  2. Strong faith grasps Jesus Christ and heaven and rejoices in the prospect of spiritual perfection.
  3. Faith believes God's word that trials will come and they are lovingly designed for your profit.
  4. Glorifying in tribulations is visible evidence of the difference that election makes (I Thess 1:2-4).
  5. Strong faith that does not stagger will not leave God even under trials (Prov 24:10; Job 5:11).
- F. But the best angle on glorifying in tribulations is found in the context – gaining experience for hope.
1. As in James 1:2-4, so 5:3b here; Christians are supposed to *know* there is value in tribulations.
  2. Do not miss the important words, *knowing that*, here, and important words, *knowing this*, there.
  3. Paul has chained four things – *tribulations, patience, experience, hope* – you should know well.
  4. There is little hope without experience, experience without patience, patience without tribulation.
  5. How these four things work together for your profit should be known enough to glory in trouble!
  6. Christian patience – *cheerfully enduring negative events* – brings Christian perfection (Jas 1:2-4).
  7. God cannot perfect Christians by prosperity, but rather by tribulations for patience. Embrace it.

### *Knowing that tribulation worketh patience.*

- A. The reason to glory in tribulations (5:3a) is enlightened knowledge of God's methods with believers.
1. As in James 1:2-4, so 5:3b here; Christians are supposed to *know* there is value in tribulations.
  2. Do not miss the important words, *knowing that*, here, and important words, *knowing this*, there.
- B. Believers should know – without tribulation they cannot learn patience – to be perfect (James 1:2-4).
1. No one likes tribulation – not even Paul – but once you know its purpose, *glory* (II Cor 12:7-10).
  2. Paul did not teach masochism, but rather a rational reason for appreciating life's certain troubles.
  3. Tribulation by itself does not work patience, but rather the right response to it with God's grace.
  4. You have never had an ounce of fear, pain, or confusion that God does not know it altogether.
  5. God planned the tribulation, and He will be with you through it, if you will believe and follow.
  6. Cheerfully enduring negative events – patience – comes by His strength, encouragement, rescue.
- C. Here is the explanation for glorifying in tribulation (5:3a) – development of great Christian character.
- D. Patience is not merely waiting with contentment – it is rather the ability to cheerfully endure trouble.
1. Patience is cheerful endurance of negative events, which requiring you having negative events.
  2. God cannot teach you patience by prosperity; He can only teach you by tribulations and trials.
  3. Be very careful about asking God for more patience, for He can only give you more that way.

4. Instead, embrace your present trials and glory in them, for He is stretching and testing you.
- E. Tribulation leads to patience and perfection – not for all – but those who respond to trials by faith.
  1. Troubles enhances faith with an enduring quality that would not exist if it were not for troubles.
  2. Paul learned by his thorn in the flesh to appreciate trials through God’s grace (II Cor 12:8-10).
  3. God planned your tribulations, is with you through them, and will reward you after finishing.

#### **4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:**

##### *And patience, experience.*

- A. Repeated lessons of *patience* – cheerful endurance of tribulations – leads to Christian *experience*.
  1. *Experience* is confirmed evidence by the observation of God’s ability to sustain you in trouble.
  2. Cheerfully enduring difficulty (patience) results in learning how to do so and strength during it.
  3. Cheerfully enduring difficulties (patience) results in confidence you can do it again in the future.
  4. Consider how Paul and his companions gained experience by God’s deliverance (II Cor 1:8-10).
  5. Consider how Paul and companions proved God’s sufficiency by their troubles (II Cor 4:8-12).
  6. You learn by repeated events that God planned them, was in them with you, and ended them.
  7. Embrace His love for you by past salvation, many present deliverances, and future inheritance.
- B. Every lesson in patience by tribulations from God endured by faith should increase your experience.
  1. You will learn God is able to fully sustain you by His grace and deliver you by various means.
  2. You will acquire a repertoire of past victories – Christian experience – for yourself and others.
  3. Difficulties that once overwhelmed you will hardly move you due to all the past deliverances.
- C. Let it be said again that this grace in trials is for those with faith ... for doubters destroy themselves.
- D. To consider three strong witnesses for reversals of fortune ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/reversal-of-fortune.pdf>

##### *And experience, hope.*

- A. Repeat lessons of God’s deliverances and/or supplies of grace create your confident expectations.
  1. Experience is the accumulated history of past deliverances from tribulations you then dreaded.
  2. Experience is all the lessons learned that God is faithful and will always provide a way of escape.
  3. Hope is confidence for any future troubles based on the benefit of experiencing past salvations.
  4. Therefore, you are able to glory in tribulations, because you now know the purpose and victory.
  5. We learn to hope in God’s spiritual deliverances, knowing He can supply more than we need.
  6. We learn to hope in God’s temporal deliverances, knowing He has saved us many times before.
  7. We learn to hope without God’s temporal deliverance, knowing an eternal deliverance is coming.
  8. Remember that the Bible has a neat promise – we count them happy that endure (James 5:11).
  9. The Bible is filled with examples of others delivered from tribulations for their hope and yours.

DESPERATION – Hagar (Gen 16:13; 21:14-21)	SLANDER – David defended, exonerated, and victorious
SIGHING – Israel in Egypt (Exodus 2:23-25)	SPOUSE – Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Ruth, Esther, and others
EXTREME – Job’s family, assets, health (James 5:11)	FOLLOWING – Joshua and Elisha after their masters
LEGISLATURE – Persia and genocide (Esther 8:1-14)	TRIAL – Spirit gave testimony without preparation
AUTHORITY – Nehemiah before Artaxerxes (Neh 2:1-8)	FOOLISH – Samson and Gideon in Hall of Faith
CONSPIRACY – Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 23:12-33)	FAITHLESS – Abraham and Sarah laughed but honored
FAMILY – David at Ziklag (I Samuel 30:1-20)	POVERTY – Widow of Zarephath preserved, prospered
SIN – David and Peter used mightily after great sins	DESPISED – Canaanite woman with possessed daughter
FATAL DISEASE – Hezekiah and 15 years	HARDSHIP – Joseph in Egypt for over 20 years
CHILD LOSS – Solomon replaced David’s son	DESERTED – Moses on backside of desert 40 years
INTIMIDATED – Jehoshaphat did not know what to do	WEATHER – Great storms became great calms
OPPOSITION – Ground opened for Moses’ enemies	INSIGNIFICANT – Widow honored highly for two mites
ALONE – God took care of Elijah and Paul on trial	MOODS – Holy Ghost power for joy, peace, and hope
DEATH – Elijah, David’s last words, Lazarus, Stephen	PRAYER DENIED – Paul exceeded with grace

- B. David faced terrible tribulation at Ziklag, but he encouraged himself in God (I Sam 30:6). Can you?
  1. How would David have done it? By a combination of experiences of deliverances (Ps 34:1-10).
  2. The Psalms are filled with David encouraging himself for you to learn his ways (Psalm 44:1-4).
  3. Each deliverance led him to greater love of God and confidence for the next trouble (Ps 116:1-9).
  4. He grew in experience until he reached a level of hope not to faint at new troubles (Ps 27:13-14).
  5. Like Job, you will never have tribulations like David did, so read the Psalms when in trouble.
  6. With an enlightened eye and the Spirit's blessing, there is incredible help in Psalms (Rom 15:4).
  7. The few examples in this section could be multiplied over and over. Learn your Psalm favorites.
  8. For David's victory over hopelessness at Ziklag ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/when-things-seem-hopeless.pdf>.
- C. There is more experience than just your own – consider two other sources designed to build hope.
  1. There is the Bible with many stories of great deliverances from great trouble, which are given for patience and comfort in order to have greater hope, including answers to prayer (Rom 15:4).
  2. Your brethren have had their own tribulations, patience, and experience to build up their hope.
  3. For three strong witnesses for reversals of fortune ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/reversal-of-fortune.pdf>.
  4. For several reminders about the power of prayer ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/power-of-prayer-slides.pdf>.
- D. Paul had been delivered, was being delivered, and knew he would be delivered again (II Cor 1:8-10).
- E. Is your knowledge of God and experience of His grace sufficient to let Him slay you (Job 13:15)?

***5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

*And hope maketh not ashamed.*

- A. True hope derived from experience with God, as described in 5:3-4, will never leave you ashamed.
  1. God has never deserted or forsaken those with faith and hope in Him, no matter the trial. Never!
  2. Whosoever believeth in Him shall never be ashamed, not here or hereafter (10:11; I Peter 2:6).
  3. We know (a) God is faithful, (b) has a wise purpose in the trials, and (c) will deliver us soon.
  4. Do you understand the simple equation – if you by faith are shamed, then God shames Himself?
  5. Moses appealed to this very fact when appealing for mercy for rebellious Israel (Num 14:13-16).
  6. Do you see that the more open your profession of faith in Christ, the more sure your salvation?
- B. The faithfulness of God will never allow believers with faith to be overcome by trials (I Cor 10:13).
  1. So sure is Christ's presence with believers that they need not fear terrible enemies (Heb 13:5-6).
  2. It does not require great faith, for Jesus Christ was merciful to a man with little (Matt 17:14-21).
  3. How did Gideon make the Hall of Faith? Or Abraham and Sarah, who both laughed at God?
  4. For some lessons about growing your faith ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/faith-how-big-is-yours.pdf>.
- C. Consider the two most extreme cases possible in order for you to grasp the glorious promise here.
  1. Job was extreme. You will never tithe his tribulations. He got double for an example (Jas 5:11).
  2. More than that, his friends had to beg him to pray to God to forgive their evil criticisms. Ouch!
  3. Martyrs had extreme tribulations, but the fortitude, wisdom, joy, and peace were unprecedented.
  4. They demonstrated God's grace on the rack and in fires like Stephen had being stoned to death.
  5. How much of God pricking Saul of Tarsus was the face, fortitude, and vision of deacon Stephen?
- D. Hope that is not realized rightly leads to confusion and great discouragement (Job 6:20; Prov 13:12).

*Because the love of God.*

- A. Here is the fifth of at least five great spiritual blessings in life coming from justification in Christ.
- B. No matter the earthly trial, which is always for your profit, there is always God's great love for you.
  1. Even before deliverance is seen or realized, there is the sure comfort of God's unchanging love.
  2. Here is the safety net that supports the child of God rejoicing in terrible tribulations (8:15-17).
  3. God's love must be considered as (a) personal, (b) permanent, and (c) powerful. See 8:35-39.



4. Tribulations are not because God loves you less but His great unchanging love wants you closer.
  5. Spouses have endured all kind of pain and suffering for extended periods of time for human love.
  6. God's love is demonstrated most completely and perfectly in giving His Son tribulation for you.
  7. A man goes to America promising love and a return; his wife loyally endures all for ten years, yet Christians have trouble enduring fewer afflictions with promises of infinitely greater worth?
  8. Even if you are not delivered as you hope or pray, God's love can overwhelm your sense of loss.
- C. How can you better appreciate His love? He loved you before you loved Him (I John 4:19). Glory!
  - D. How can you better appreciate His love? His love for you is not like your love of Him (I John 4:10).
  - E. When you understand Jesus Christ's love, it will lead you to patience taught here (II Cor 5:13-15).
  - F. It is a proper and important prayer request for the Spirit to teach you Christ's love (Eph 3:14-19).
  - G. Paul will elaborate on that His love for you in the following verses that detail Christ's work (5:6-11).

### *Is shed abroad in our hearts.*

- A. God sends the Holy Spirit into His children for them to know His love (8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-6).
  1. This powerful message is not the love of some timid man choking out the difficult words.
  2. This powerful message is the Creator of the universe promising perpetual love due to Christ.
  3. This is no conditional love of a weak human that could change tomorrow to another person.
  4. This is unconditional love forever due to the conditions of the love perfectly fulfilled by Christ.
- B. God's love is not a flickering candle or small gleam of light, but an overpowering brilliance.
  1. God's love is not locational in the heart, but fills every corner and consumes darkness if allowed.
  2. God's love is effectual, if allowed, in that it causes the human heart to cry out, *Abba, Father!*
  3. This experience of God's love, known by true Christians, transcends all human love, fear, etc.
- C. So true and great is this blessing of love that Paul could assume it and argue from it (Phil 2:1).
- D. God is love, and the Holy Spirit teaches us love in our inner man (I John 3:23-24; 4:12-13).
- E. The shame is that prosperity often leads to self-love, but affliction to embrace the God-love here.

### *By the Holy Ghost.*

- A. God sends the Spirit into His children for them to know His love (Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:4-6).
  1. The Holy Spirit with you and in you is Christ's promised presence to comfort (John 14:18).
  2. This incredible personal seal is God's earnest of your eternal inheritance (Eph 1:13-14).
- B. But if you grieve or quench the Holy Spirit, this assurance is dimmed (Eph 4:30; I Thess 5:19).
  1. If you have not had this overwhelming testimony in you, then there is little hope of salvation.
  2. When Christians sit bored waiting for a sermon to end, you may assume they are not saved.
  3. Many Christians know little of this matter, for they have always grieved or quenched Him.
- C. Sincere and wise Christians know that they can grow deeper and deeper in this grace (Eph 3:14-21).

### *Which is given unto us.*

- A. The Holy Ghost is given as the earnest and seal of your eternal inheritance (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).
- B. This gift is God Himself. Do not think of the Spirit as a force or power. It is Christ with you, in you.
- C. We receive this blessing of the Holy Spirit at a faithful baptism following confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and your only Savior from sin (John 7:39; Acts 5:32; II Cor 1:22; 5:5).
- D. Jesus Christ paid the price for you to have the Holy Spirit, which God had promised you (Acts 2:33).
- E. We no longer look for a visible demonstration of the Spirit, for it has not been given for 1,950 years.
- F. There are many ministries of the Spirit for believers ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/holy-spirit-in-ephesians.pdf>.