

Training Begins

2-7-21

Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² 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. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ 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.

Please not the word “Therefore”. Therefore means because of the two previous Chapters, these five verses apply to us. Because of our salvation explained in Chapter 3 and our Faith explained in C.4, we are justified and have peace with God. Not only that we have access into the favor and power of God. Therefore, we go boldly before the throne of God. We through faith in Jesus Christ rejoice in the assurance of God’s presence. May I read the first two verse again.

Romans 5:1–2 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² 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.

With this completed work of God, we could say Amen and close the book. However, now in Chapter 5 we enter into the “Training Day” of our walk with God. Being full of faith, God now instructs us how HE will train us to live out our faith with power. Verse 3 says our training lesson starts with suffering:

#1 We rejoice in our sufferings!

Believers rejoice in their suffering clinging to Jesus continuing to show their love and loyalty to him.

Acts 5:41 (ESV)

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Verse 3 continues by explaining the training of suffering:

#2 We know that suffering “produces” endurance!

Endurance means Patience under pressure or perseverance. It Literally means "remaining under"! Suffering produces people that don't quit or reveals people that don't quit. Not quitting is a Christian quality necessary to grow in faith and power. An active attribute of manifesting faith is not to quit.

Verse 4 continues and shows us the importance of endurance:

#3 We know endurance produces character!

The word rendered “character” indicates tested value. *The literal word means “the process of proving”; or “experience”!*

Endurance produces a walk with God and growing trust in God. This is our experience with God. Thus, experience produces character or reveals character.

Note the parallel in James 1:3-4

James 1:3–4 (ESV)

³ For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Let endurance have its full effect which produces character! Thus, we are being made perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Verse 4 reveals our character reveals godly confidence:

#4 We know character produces hope!

Literally Hope is “favorable and confident expectation” Our character, our experience, produces “favorable and confident expectation” that God will do everything HE said.

This Hope that began with suffering never puts us to shame.

Romans 5:5 (ESV)

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.

This is the first time in Romans Paul mentions the love of God. The fullness of God's love for us comes through the Holy Spirit. In chapter 8 this is developed more fully. However, here in our "Training Day" we see that God's love is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This is the certification by the Holy Spirit that we are glorious in God's eyes and HIS love for us is "poured out" on us in abundance, unrestrained, with extravagant effusion. This is not intellectual recognition or just HIS demonstration on the cross, but this is the inner certainty that God loves us. This love is conveyed to our all our senses by the Holy Spirit. When in full recognition of this love we declare with the apostle Paul in 2Cor.5:14, "The love of Christ controls us," and also in Rom.8:35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" By the Holy Spirit, this love permeates our total being!

Training Day! We rejoice in sufferings, because the Holy Spirit is producing an overflowing consciousness in us flooding all our senses that we are the object of God's love. Therefore, we HOPE. As God's loved ones, we have a "favorable and confident expectation" in God.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.