

Is There Any Hope?

Word

Scripture Reference

Romans 5:1-5

Discussion Questions

1. In what areas of life do people usually feel hopeless?
2. Hopelessness is the most serious disease a person could have. Sad to say, many people are trapped in hopeless situations. Men try all kinds of effort to be hopeful but fail, but the Word of God tells us that there IS hope. Romans 5:1-5 shows us three truths about hope. First is that hope begins in peace with God (v. 1-2). You were in big trouble, standing guilty before God because of sin that separated you from Him. How did God solve this problem? What is the core for your justification with God (v. 1)? What does it mean to be justified? How does Jesus Christ change a person's position with God (v. 2)? Share how knowing Christ as your Savior has given you peace and hope in life.
3. Second, hope grows with work by God (v. 3-4). Hope begins with peace with God and proceeds to glory in tribulation knowing that it produces perseverance, and perseverance, character, and character, hope. When this process happens, something is produced that results to joy. The apostle Paul was not saying that you should rejoice for tribulation, but that you should rejoice in tribulation for the following reasons:
 - a. *It develops perseverance and endurance.* It is a decision of the will to remain steadfast and not to give in. Discuss how suffering yields perseverance. What good things could be brought about by difficult episodes in a person's life?
 - b. *It produces character.* A good, strong character will not happen overnight. It is like being put and tested in the fire to cleanse and reveal the real you. It has to be tested by circumstances. Share how a difficult situation has helped you to develop not only endurance but a good character in you as well.
 - c. *Character produces hope.* Suffering strengthens your faith, and when you hold on to that faith tightly, you become a real disciple of Christ.

God accepts you the way you are, but He doesn't want you to stay the way you are. How are suffering and hope linked to each other? Share how a difficult situation has either brought you back to God or strengthened your faith in Him.

4. Thirdly, hope rests on the love of God (v. 5). Hope in God does not disappoint. God's love is the guarantee that He will complete what He had started in us. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that doesn't leave us. He will confront and convict us, but will not leave us. That's the joy of being a Christian, that there is hope because God wanted to finish what He has started in us. What is hope? Share what holds you from being joyful and hopeful in the middle of difficult situations. How does the love of God assure you that it is safe to hold on to Him tightly in the midst of doubts and complicated circumstances?

Walk

As a believer, there is joy and reassurance that in every difficult situation, you can find hope in the assurance of God's love. This hope begins in peace with God, and grows when God works in us by allowing us to experience tribulations so that we develop perseverance, character and hope. This hope rests on the love of God. Knowing these truths, ponder how suffering has brought a positive, rather than negative, results in your life. In what tough situations do you need to stop complaining and remain focused in your joy in Jesus Christ?

Worship & Prayer

Father God, we thank You that through Jesus Christ You demonstrated Your love for me. Thank You that through Christ I am assured of peace with You. Because of Christ, I have the Holy Spirit in me, who never leaves me even in the most trying times, but instead gives me strength and the assurance of victory. This gives me hope. And so Father, I ask that You continue to mold me into who I'm supposed to be. If it's through trials, let it be so, and let it be that I may glorify Your name. In Jesus' name. Amen.