**Hope in God! – Rom. 5:3 -5**

**Focal Truth: I hope in God because of my trials**

*I confess that I am more hopeful today than at any other time in my life because of my trials!*

My trials only come to make me more like Jesus Christ

My trials only come to produce greater dependence on God!

***Are you able to say that you have hope in God because of your trials?***

**Observations**

**1. I hope in God joyfully expecting to live in the eternal glory of God - 5: 1 -2**

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord*

 *Jesus Christ, though whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this*

 *grace in which we stand, and we exult in hope of the glory of God*

 a. Believers live in the privileged condition of being **justified by faith in God**

 b. Believers live in the privileged condition of being at **peace with God**

 c. Believers rejoice in the hope – assured expectation of **living in God’s**

 **glory**

 d. Rom. 15:13 – *now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in*

 *believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*

 e. Ps. 16:11 – *you make known to me the path of life, in Your presence is*

 *fullness of joy, in your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

f. Believers **stand justified before God** by His grace – “*we have obtained our*

 *introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand”*

**2. I hope in God in trials joyfully knowing they strengthen my hope – 5:3 - 4**

 *and not only this, but we exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings*

 *perseverance, and perseverance, proven character, and proven character, hope*

 a. **Troubles produce perseverance** – endurance comes through the trials

 b. **Perseverance produces proven character** = strong integrity

 c. **Proven character produces hope**

 d. Job 23: 11-12 – *My foot has held fast to His path, I have kept His way & not*

 *turned aside. I have not departed from the command of His lips, I have*

 *treasured the words of His mouth, more than my necessary food.*

 e. Ps. 44:18 -19 – *our heart has not turned back & our steps have not*

 *deviated from Your way, yet you have crushed us in a place of jackals*

 *and covered us with the shadow of death*

 f. James 1: 2 – 4 – *consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various*

 *trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let*

 *endurance have its perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete,*

 *lacking in nothing*

**John Bunyan – Hope has thick skin!**

 **How does trouble strengthen hope?**

1. Enduring trials produces greater dependence on God & trust in God
2. Current trials recall God’s past help in troubles
3. Current trials reveal God’s assurance of His love & presence

Ps. 130:5 – *I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope*

Phil. 3:20 – *for our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for*

*a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*

**The believer trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ & hopefully, expectantly waits for His help in their trials**

 We trust, we hope & we wait for the assured help from God!

**3. I hope in God without disappointment because I know God loves me – 5:5**

*and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within*

 *our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us*

 a. Hoping in God **never brings disappointment**

 b. Hoping in God **never brings shame**

 c. Hoping in God **never brings regret**

 d. Rom. 9:33 – *he who believes in Him will not be disappointed*

e. Hope in God thrives in God’s love

 The Holy Spirit comes to strengthen our hope in trials having placed

 in our hearts assurance that God loves us!

 *The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are children of God*

 f. Gal. 4:6 – *because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into*

 *your hearts, crying, Abba Father!*

g. 1 John 4:16 – *we have come to know and have believed the love which God*

 *has for us…*

**Things to Remember**

1**.** Faith comes by hearing but hope comes by experience

2. The hope of heaven controls our desires on the earth

3. Hope in God feeds our patience in troubles – Rom. 12:12 – rejoicing in hope,

 persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer

4. The love of God never disappoints our hope even in our deepest trials

**Daily Use**

1. Make sure that you have been justified by God through faith in Jesus Christ

2. Wait for God in your current trials

3. Remember how God has helped you in trials in the past

**But we exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance, and perseverance, proven character, and proven character, hope and hope does not disappoint…**