



Hope That Does Not Make Ashamed

“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” (Romans 5:5)

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“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 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” (Romans 5:3-5).

Introduction

We live in a time where suffering is everywhere, yet hope is scarce. People rejoice in success, comfort, and ease—but Scripture presents a radically different perspective — that of “Rejoicing in a World That Is Hurting”. The Apostle Paul declares that believers can **glory in tribulations**. This is not denial of pain, nor religious optimism. It is a confident, informed, Spirit-empowered response to hardship.

Romans 5 reminds us that Christianity does not remove suffering; it **redeems** it. This passage confronts both believer and non-believer with a serious question: *What is suffering producing in your life?* We will consider this message under five headings as follows:

- 1) Tribulation Is Not Meaningless – It Is Productive
- 2) Patience Produces Proven Character
- 3) Proven Character Produces Hope
- 4) This Hope Will Never Put Us to Shame
- 5) The Source of This Hope Is the Love of God

1: Tribulation Is Not Meaningless – It Is Productive

“We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience” (Romans 5:3).

Paul does not say we tolerate tribulation, nor merely endure it. He says we **glory** in it—not because pain is good, but because God uses it purposefully as supported by these scriptures:

- **John 16:33** – “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”
- **James 1:2-3** – “Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.”

As an illustration, consider gold refined by fire. The fire does not destroy the gold; it removes the dross. Likewise, tribulation exposes what cannot endure and strengthens what truly belongs to God. The challenges from this are:

- **To believers:** Do you complain about trials or cooperate with God in them?
- **To non-believers:** Without God, suffering feels random and cruel. Scripture declares it can be purposeful—but only when anchored in Christ.

2: Patience Produces Proven Character

“And patience, experience...” (Romans 5:4)

The word translated *experience* carries the meaning of **tested and proven character**. This is not theory; it is faith that has been lived, tried, and authenticated as confirmed by these scriptures:



- **1 Peter 1:6–7** – “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”.
- **Job 23:10** – “When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

In the secular a bridge is not trusted because it looks strong, but because it has carried weight over time. Likewise, faith becomes credible when it has survived pressure. The challenge:

- **To believers:** Is your faith still standing when circumstances collapse?
- **To non-believers:** What has your life philosophy truly proven when tested by loss, disappointment, or death?

3: Proven Character Produces Hope

“And experience, hope.” (Romans 5:4)

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking; it is confident expectation rooted in God’s faithfulness. When we see God sustain us before, we trust Him for what lies ahead, as per these scriptures:

- **Psalm 42:11** – “Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God”.
- **Hebrews 6:19** – “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast.”

Hope is like an anchor in a storm. It does not stop the storm, but it prevents the ship from drifting into destruction. It brings these challenges:

- **To believers:** Is your hope anchored in God or in changing circumstances?
- **To non-believers:** Without God, hope is fragile. With Christ, hope is secure—even in death.

4: This Hope Will Never Put Us to Shame

“And hope maketh not ashamed...” (Romans 5:5)

Biblical hope will never disappoint, humiliate, or fail. It is not built on human promises but on divine faithfulness as per these scriptures:

- **Isaiah 28:16** – “He that believeth shall not make haste.”
- **Romans 10:11** – “Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”

The world often mocks faith—until crisis comes. Then many discover too late that what they trusted cannot save them.

5: The Source of This Hope Is the Love of God

“...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5).

Hope is sustained not by human strength but by divine love, poured into the heart by the Holy Spirit, as indicated in these scriptures:

- **John 3:16** – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”.
- **Romans 8:38–39** – For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”.



For Non-Believers This love is not automatic; it is received through Christ as confirmed in Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”.

Conclusion: What Will You Do With Your Suffering?

Everyone suffers. The difference is not *whether* we suffer, but *what suffering produces*.

- Without Christ: suffering leads to bitterness, despair, and hopelessness.
- With Christ: suffering leads to patience, character, hope, and unashamed confidence.

Final Appeal

- **To believers:** Do not waste your trials. Let God work fully.
- **To non-believers:** Come to Christ, where suffering is not the end of the story.

Remember **2 Corinthians 4:17** – “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”.

Amen.