

I. My text tonight is from Romans 5:

"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5 NLT

- a. Notice the progression here. First comes the problems or trials. Dealing with them leads to endurance. In this context: Endurance (def.) - the power to patiently withstand hardship or stress.
- b. Endurance results in strong character. In this context: Character (def.) - moral strength or reputation. The inherent complex of attributes that determines a person's moral and ethical actions and reaction.
- c. Character leads to hope. Hope rises as we grasp the fullness of God's character. Hope (def.) - the general feeling of anticipation or expectancy that some desire will be fulfilled. Someone (or something) on which expectations are centered. In this context, our confidence or assurance that God keeps His promises.
- d. Hope in God does NOT lead to disappointment. Disappointment (def.) - a feeling of dissatisfaction that results when your expectations are not realized.
- e. If you decide to just stay in the place of hope, you won't go anywhere. If you step into disappointment (a choice), it is easy to slide into the pit of despair. There is another path and that's faith. Step out in faith and trust God that He will do what He promises to do.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

II. Every time that lying spirit says, "If God really loved you, He would never have let that happen." My response has to be: Look to the cross (John 3:16), but don't stop there, see beyond that – see the empty tomb.

- a. Hope gives us confidence of our salvation and the assurance of God's free gift – eternal life through Jesus. (Romans 6:23)
- b. Hope in God *"maketh NOT ashamed."* (Romans 5:5a KJVA)
- c. Have you ever been told, "Don't get your hopes up?" Because we are in Christ, our hopes should be up all the time.
- d. Satan says _____, but what does God have to say about that? What we need at that point is a healthy dose of faith. Where does that come from? Faith comes by hearing (truly hearing) God's Word.

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17 NKJV

The kind of hearing that only happens when His Word is written on the heart.

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Hebrews 8:10 NKJV

We must cast our cares on Him, for He cares for us. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7NLT

III. Holy Spirit is our gift from God that fills our heart with His love.

- a. God makes a “love deposit” into the heart of every Believer. Holy Spirit is that love deposit.
- b. Holy Spirit causes the fruit of the Spirit to abound in our lives. (Galatians 5:22): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

“Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love – and the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

- c. Holy Spirit provides comfort in times of need. He abides with us forever. (John 14:16 KJVA)
- d. He gives the assurance of our salvation, bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)
- e. He provides both the desire and power to do what pleases God. (Philippians 2:13 NLT). “We have resurrection power living on our insides.”

“The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.” Romans 8:11 NLT

- f. Holy Spirit transforms us by renewing our mind.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2 NKJV

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8 NLT

Given the opportunity, Holy Spirit will work in us to remove anything that hinders God’s perfect love in our lives. When our hope is firmly grounded in our salvation through Christ’s finished work on the cross, there is no place for disappointment. *“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”* (Colossians 1:27 NKJV)

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness...

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NLT