

Increasingly Rejoicing 2022-01-30

Romans 5:1-5

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.

Ads tell what going to sell then say, "But, wait, there's more."

- God's love in Jesus Christ is basis for ever increasing rejoicing.

3 increasing levels of rejoicing: hope of glory of God, suffer/tribulations, God through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1-2

- hope of glory of God= confident (HOPE) in future glorification, eternity in presence/glory of God....Paradise lost by sin now certainty.

Rejoicing in certain future assists us in rejoicing in present suffering! Romans 5:3-4, 8:28, James 1:2, Isaiah 55:8

- Tribulations/suffering is normal part of Christian life and rejoicing in trials is uniform in New Testament teaching.
- Paul understood suffering/tribulations & God's purposes for it. "We rejoice" 2 Corinthians 11:21-33
 - We do not rejoice because we like suffering, or in spite of suffering but because of suffering.

rejoice in suffering because God uses it not to destroy us but build us up, sanctify us.

- brings character qualities not developed any other way....perfects faith.
- through tribulation, faith is tested and as it endures develops proven character.
 - proven character: approved as result of test/trial. metal purification process.
- character result/product/proof of God's grace working in our lives.
 - God proving faith is genuine confirms you are a true Christian and future is certain.

Rejoice in tribulation because God produces Christ-likeness in us and is evidence God loves us. Romans 5:5-8

- hope rooted in proven faith does not disappoint because God's love is certain.
 - God's love sent Jesus at the right time to die for us. atone no afterthought.
- God's love is stark contrast to even deepest expression of human love.
 - While enemies, Jesus Christ died...Gospel.

God's love is not based on our performance so His continued love is guaranteed.

- If God loved us while we were enemies, how much more does He love us now?

- Tribulation/suffering displays God's love, not anger/disappointment.
 - Remembering this is the secret to rejoicing in tribulation/suffering.
 - Example
 - Take thoughts captive.....
- Same love that caused Jesus to die sends Holy Spirit to live in and empower in our suffering.
 - Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus Christ so his death is our death, his life our life.
- If reconciled by His death, surely saved from future wrath by His life.
 - It is one thing to not dread wrath; another thing altogether to delight in God.... Romans 5:9-11

Rejoicing in God Himself.....uttermost level of rejoicing.

- Rejoice in God for all He is, not just what He has and will do for us.
 - He is our great reward that we will delight in Him eternally.

God's love in Jesus is the basis for continual and increasing rejoicing. Ephesians 3:14-19, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

- rejoicing in the glory of God....Jesus' past work securing our justification/salvation....
- rejoicing in present suffering/tribulation....God sanctify through endurance, proven character.
- rejoicing for all eternally in God Himself...our joy, delight.

God's love manifest in Jesus Christ is the basis for continual increasing rejoicing...now/all eternity.