Romans 5:1-5

Verses 1-2:

--***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

--***Therefore*** introduces us to new considerations of the righteousness of God. Here in chapter **5,** Paul begins to lay out the blessed results of justification by faith. Having been (past tense) declared righteous, these are now the blessings recorded:

1) Peace with God
2) Access to God and grace
3) The hope of glory

--Each of these comes ***through our Lord Jesus Christ***. Therefore, each of these blessings possesses a side that is objective (true despite our personal feelings or experience) and a side that is subjective (our personal experience of any particular truth). One remains, and the other should grow.

1) ***We have peace with God.***

--***Peace with God*** is the objective side, and the peace *of* God is the subjective side.

--Paul had previously shown our relation to peace with God in **3:17-18:** ***And the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.*** *Paul knew from personal experience what it was to wrestle with God.*

--Through the work of Jesus Christ, we are no longer in rebellion against God, nor are we enemies of God, but we are what Paul says in **1:7:** ***beloved of God, called to be saints***. There is settled peace toward us (How could there not be if we are justified by His own work?) on God's side. *Think of the Father and the prodigal son*

--The peace we have through the Lord Jesus Christ is what Isaiah prophesied about in **Isaiah 32:17:** ***The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.***

--Paul makes this peace an understated theme through the book of Romans: **8:6; 10:15; 14:17 + 19: 15:13 + 33; 16:20**: ***And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly!***

--That said, our peace with God is different than the personal subjective experience of peace in God, or the peace of God. There are personal promises of God's experienced peace as we live in this crazy life. Such as:

John. 14:27:** ***Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Philippians 4:7:** ***And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

--These promises speak of a type of peace that the world knows nothing of and even a supernatural peace that our natural understanding knows nothing of.
--There may be conditions to the subjective side of peace. Meaning, it can only be known and experienced under certain conditions. Peace cannot be found in yourself or your own works; In the world or material goods; In sin or untruths about God; In a false gospel; In pride and unrepentance; etc.
--There are true conditions such as:
Isaiah 48:18: *Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.*
*A.W. Tozer (Born After Midnight): *"The world talks of peace, and by peace it means the absence of war. What it overlooks is that there is another meaning of the word, namely, tranquility of heart, and without that kind of peace the peace of the world will continue to be but an unattainable dream. . . True peace is a gift of God and today it is found only in the minds of innocent children and in the hearts of trustful Christians. 'Peace I leave with you,' said our Lord at the close of His earthly ministry; 'my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'*

*It is time that we Christians awake to the fact that the world cannot help us in anything that matters. Not the educators nor the legislators nor the scientists can bring us tranquility of heart, and without tranquility whatever else they give us is useless at last. For more than half a lifetime I have listened to their promises, and they have so far failed to make good on one of them. To turn to God is now the only reasonable thing to do; we have no second choice. 'Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.'"**
--That said, our subjective experience will be most directly related to the simplicity of our trust in the objective declaration. My personal peace will come from the Prince of Peace!
Ephesians 2:14: *For He Himself is our peace. . . *Think of Jesus walking around with the disciples in their various situations.*
--I can have perfect peace in this life because I have a perfect Christ. I have peace with God, a peace that is real, and deep, and unchanging—a peace that is not cheap words, in fact, it is a peace so rich that it cost the very blood of God for a sinner like me to walk in.
--You have that peace! Do you know it? It is the gift of our Savior. Pray for your portion.

2) ***We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand***
--The objective side is that we stand on the ground of access and grace. God's grace has made our condition one in which we have no excuse to live at a distance.
--The Jewish mind would, of course, run to the tabernacle/temple and the torn veil.
--Now, this objective reality must be enjoyed ***by faith*** because *our actions* would give us reason to stay out of His presence, but *His actions* have given us a continual stream of cleansing.
Hebrews 10:22: *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

--We don't come into more grace by additional acceptance or understanding. We are in the fullness of God's grace the moment we first believe. We now ***stand*** in grace.
--My actions didn't get me "in" with Jesus to begin with. They cannot get me "in" with Jesus once I am already saved. He is pleased when I come to Him for grace. *God, if you don't help me, all I will ever do is sin!*
--Blood and water are there for us. Forgiveness and cleansing.
1 John 1:7: *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*
--Jesus Christ didn't die just to save us from our sin. He saved us from our sin so that we could once again be and do what He made us to be and do. Which is what? Please Him by enjoying a unique relationship with Him like nothing else in creation was made to do.
John 17:3: *And this is eternal life, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*
--God does not justify us with His own righteousness to keep us at a distance. The blood of Christ was spilled so that we could enjoy childship and friendship with Him.
--His door is never shut to us. God's desire to fellowship with us never changes. The riches of His grace to wash and cleanse us never diminish. He is no respecter of persons.
James 4:8: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*
--The subjective side of this is the manifestation of Christ's presence in our lives. His known, abiding, and experienced presence with us. The manifestation of divine life is also promised on certain conditions. ***John 14:19-24 +** The Prodigal son parable again fits as an example*****
--Even so, if we desire to know God and walk with Him, if we desire to be near to Him and know Him more personally, we must simply put ourselves in the place that He says we will find Him. *His Word, prayer, obedience, His Body, etc. & Friendship is a sharing of mutual interests*
--Then I leave the experience up to Him. It will come and go as He pleases, but the access never changes because His heart never changes. His presence will be more simply known and enjoyed as one has faith in the objective reality.
--So the Scriptures and God Himself call us to draw near. God is not looking for forgiven and distant sons and daughters. Are we saved and willing to live at a distance? Are you happy to have a get-out-of-hell-free card? Is God a parachute you hope you never have to use or trust?
--Or have you sinned—knowingly, extendedly—and you are afraid or ashamed to come back because you knew better? The objective, unchanging promises of peace with God and access to the grace of God are waiting for you.
--God waits to be wanted, will He wait in vain for you? Will you turn from His knocking?
--This is no cheap access that we have been gifted. It cost the blood of God's Son for me to pray, to read my Bible in the morning and hear His voice, to come and worship with His people, and know He is present in our praises.

3) ***And rejoice in hope of the glory of God***

--The objective reality is that we will step into the glory of God.

--This hope is sure in the work of Christ. *Many have no hope of glory in this life—(They can't measure up), or they live for lesser glory—(Bowling/softball team/job/likes online). All passing and worthless.*

John 17:22:** ***And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.*

Colossians 3:4:** ***When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

--Our hope is not only to see Christ's glory, but to enter into it and to share in it!

Romans 8:17-18:** ***And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

--The subjective reality of this seems harder for us. Three got to see Jesus' transfigured, the wider group of disciples got to see Jesus resurrected, Paul had a vision of heaven, but what of us? Are we to look for that type of experience? What is our subjective reality?

--Our subjective reality is the amount of joy and hope we enjoy in the reality of eternal promises. The Holy Spirit gives these things the eternal weight they ought to have in our hearts.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10:** ***But as it is written: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

--No one can deny the rich Christian history and present reality of this supernatural and eternal hope working in the hearts of the children of God. For martyrs, missionaries, and moms! This is an everyday life truth—even if it isn't spoken of us as it should be.

*Adolph Saphir (The Hidden Life): *"As one human countenance differs from another, as the glory of one star differeth from that of another, so there is a great variety and manifold peculiarity among the children of God. Each has a name, known only to the Lord and himself, and the Good Shepherd, who knows each sheep by name, is preparing for each "a place." All are children and heirs, all are united in the Father's house; but each finds as he was led personally during the time of his earthly pilgrimage, so the end of the way is also personally adapted to him. Thus all our earthly experiences have an eternal result. As our spiritual life progresses on earth, our eternal mansion progresses. Jesus fits us for our future abode, and prepares our future above for us. "Let not your heart be troubled;" infinite wisdom and love is preparing an inheritance for you, and preparing you for an inheritance. But let heart awake; let us be faithful unto death, that we may obtain the crown of life. We are with Jesus. He is all—the beginning and the ending. With Him all our hopes are crowned." **

--What is your hope? What is your rejoicing on earth? You can direct it toward heaven.

Matthew 6:21:** ***For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

--There is no such thing as cheap glory. This costly hope, the only true hope in this life, is secure for us in the work of Jesus Christ. With Him, all our hopes are crowned.

Verses 3-4:

--***And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.***

--This may seem like a strange twist from Paul, but I think it is very important. We need to see that having peace with God, access to His grace, and the hope of glory do not mean everything is perfect in this life.

--In fact, the work of God brings direct conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil. This was the reality for early believers who knew sufferings and trials were the normal and expected experience of Christ-followers (What example did they see in Christ and His apostles?).

--Earthly tribulations were, are, and continually will be a part of the Christian message.

Acts 14:22: *Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."*

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4: *That no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.*

*Govett (On Romans): *"Troubles for Christ's sake assure us that we are on the way to the heritage and glory of God. Men of faith will not fall out with God, because of the troubles that befall them."**

--We can have an unspoken agreement between us and God that if we do what is right, He will keep us from trials. It can seem like there are other saints who get to live life without any hardship (Which we don't really know), and then we can be shocked or scandalized when trials come, as if God didn't hold up His end of the unspoken bargain.

--Should we not rather say like Job: **Job 2:10: *Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?***

1 Peter 5:8-9: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

--God will help us.

1 Peter 5:10-11: *But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.* **(Also Romans 8:35)**

--We as Christians can glory in our tribulations because we know they are from God and we know that they *produce* something. That said, we don't seek or ask <u>*for tribulations*</u>, but we are called to expect Christ's work <u>*in tribulations*</u> as God sees fit to lead us in His plan and for His glory.

--Now, if we don't ***rejoice in the hope of the glory of God*** it will be very difficult to persevere or glory in tribulations. *The Christian message gives meaning to trials and tribulations—they are not random, godless events.*

*Morgan (The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans): *"This is not the attitude of one submitting to the inevitable, and hardening the heart against pain. It is rather that of one who, having caught the vision of the ultimate issue in glory, patiently endures the process of the fire, in the joy of the certainty of that issue."**

--Trials help to get us off of our "crutches" in this life. We have many such as: self-love, self-indulgence, friends, pride, materialism, trust in physical health, entertainment, worldliness, etc.

*Fenelon (The Seeking Heart): ***"****Do not waste your suffering. Let suffering accomplish what God wants it to in your life. Never get so hard that you suffer for no reason and for no purpose. Paul says, "God loves a cheerful giver." How much He must love those who cheerfully give themselves to His dealings."**

--***Perseverance*** brings us to the place where we continue to honor God through the journey and under the pressure. We don't doubt our peace with God, or His grace, or His glorious reward.

--We are to face tribulations just as Christ did, but also with the hope and perspective that Christ did! ***1 Peter 4:12-19***

--***Character*** is that which has sustained the test of perseverance. Like gold through the fire, the character truly becomes ours.

1 Peter 1:6-7: *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

--***Hope*** is built as we endure, become conformed, and choose the next world over this one. Ours is a true hope. The world is without hope **(Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13)** or believes in a false hope **(Prov. 11:7; Acts 16:9)**.

--Hudson Taylor, speaking to missionaries with the glass of water, began striking the table until the water spilled from the cup and said: *Trouble shakes out what is already in us. Will trouble shake the glory out?*

Verse 5:

--***Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.***

--Without hope and love, perseverance in trial would be a cold, hard thing. But that is not where God leaves us. He pours out the supernatural love of God in our hearts like water on dry ground. That water, because it is living water, produces life.

--How does God do this work in us? Though a gift! The Holy Spirit ***given to us!*** God has given the very Personal gift of Himself to be ***in our hearts***—the most personal part of our lives.

--The world may think us foolish for this attitude, but the Holy Spirit makes the love of God a reality in our hearts as we pass through these trials and tribulations.
--And what hope does the world have in their trials? Hope that utopia will be made here? That technology will advance fast enough that we can inhabit Mars and not all die in one great catastrophe? Hope that God isn't real? Hope that God isn't coming back to Judge the world, or that they will escape His judgment because of special excuses? Hope in themselves? Hope that harm or death won't find them in this life? Hope that hell is not real?
--Their false hopes will disappoint, but our true hope ***does not disappoint***.
--We love Him and trust that we will not be ashamed in the end.
9:33:** ***As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*
10:11:** ***For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*