

A Hope That Does Not Disappoint

Romans 5:1–5

Introduction: As we step into a new year, we can either carry fear, regret, and anxiety—or enter with a living hope that does not disappoint (Romans 5:5). This “hope” in Scripture isn’t wishful thinking—it’s confident certainty based on God’s love and promise through Christ.

Followers of Jesus have a hope that never fails—secured by peace with God, strengthened through trials, and sealed by His love.

I. Priceless peace with God: The firm foundation of hope (Romans 5:1–2) *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

A. Our hope begins with a settled relationship with God.

To be *justified by faith* means we’re declared righteous through Christ’s work, not our own. The war with God is over (Psalm 7:11).

1. Through the cross, Jesus satisfied God’s wrath and signed our peace treaty with His blood (Colossians 1:20).
2. “He Himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:14).

B. Justification is God’s act of declaring the sinner righteous.

1. As Swindoll said: not “just as if I’ve never sinned,” but “though I’m a sinner, He sees me as clean.
2. We are still under construction, but our foundation—peace with God—is secure.

C. Now we live from acceptance, not for it.

1. Jesus promised, “Peace I leave with you... My peace I give to you” (John 14:27).
2. True peace is not based on circumstances but on being right with God. “Justification makes us right with God and opens our hearts to His peace.” — Charles Stanley

D. Peace leads to hope.

1. You no longer need to fear judgment (Romans 8:1).
2. You are God’s beloved child (1 John 3:1).
3. Peace with God allows you to worship without guilt. *“The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever”* (Isaiah 32:17).

II. Purposeful perseverance in trials: The Pathway to a Deeper Hope (Romans 5:3–4) *“We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

A. Trials are part of God’s plan, not accidents.

1. Pressure (tribulation) produces endurance; endurance builds character; character strengthens hope.

2. The word “tribulation” means “pressure”—like grain pressed under a *tribulum* to separate chaff from wheat.

God uses those pressures to purify our faith, not destroy it.

B. Scriptural echoes: *“Count it all joy... knowing that the testing of your faith produces perseverance”* (James 1:2–4).

Difficulties develop spiritual muscle; endurance grows through resistance.

1. *No grit, no pearl.* A pearl is formed by irritation—our pain can produce something precious.
2. MacArthur: “The more you suffer, the brighter your hope becomes.”
3. Barclay: “Christian endurance is not just bearing a hard thing; it’s turning it into glory.”

C. Takeaways for the new year:

1. Trust that “all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28).
2. Trials are temporary, but their fruit is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17).
3. Even when life drags you across the threshing floor, God is producing perseverance, character, and hope.

III. Powerful proof of God’s love: The assurance of our hope (Romans 5:5) *“Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”*

A. Our anchor of assurance: The Holy Spirit pours God’s love into our hearts—our personal guarantee of hope (Ephesians 1:14). This is more than knowledge; it’s an experience of God’s abiding presence (Romans 8:16).

B. Objective proof: the Cross—“Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Internal proof: the Spirit’s witness within us (Romans 5:5). Together they provide unshakable confidence in God’s love.

C. When we measure God’s love, measure by:

- The cross.
- The Spirit within.
- The mercies new every morning (Lamentations 3:21–23).

D. Hope means confident expectation.

- “Hope is faith in the future tense.” — Adrian Rogers

E. When hope feels hard, remind yourself:

1. God loves me—Christ’s death and the Spirit’s presence prove it (Romans 8:32).
2. God’s love secures my future.
3. The Holy Spirit fills me daily with renewed hope (Romans 15:13).

Conclusion: The calendar will change, but Christ’s hope endures. Peace with God. Perseverance in trials. Love poured out by the Spirit. These are your treasures for 2026. (1 Pe. 1:3; Rom. 15:13)