



## Cultivating Hope

Paul went through some hardships in his life. He has been imprisoned, shipwrecked, whipped, and beaten with rods. Just read 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 for the list of things that he went through. How did he managed to endure all of those things and still keep his sanity? How did he maintain hope and persevere through?

In our passage today, we will get a glimpse into Paul's mind, and see the lens through which he views the world. If we learn to look at the world like he does, it will help us in our own hardships and struggles. Let us look at Romans 5 and see how Paul maintains hope.

### Launch

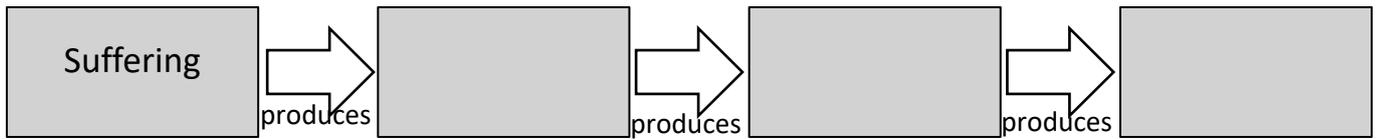
- 1) What do you think produces hope in people who are going through hardships?

### CULTIVATING HOPE

#### Read Romans 5:1-8

- 2) What has Paul been discussing before Romans 5? Take the time to quickly read through Romans 3:21 – 4:25. Summarise each section in one sentence:
  - a. Romans 3:21 – 31
  - b. Romans 4:1-25
- 3) What is the result or consequence of what Paul talked about in 3:21 – 4:25? (v1-2)
  - a. What is this "peace" that Paul is referring to? Use what you have learned from 3:21 – 4:25 to answer this.
- 4) What do we do with what we have gained from our justification? (v2b-3)

a. Why? (v3b-4) Complete the following diagram:



- 5) Why do you think character produces hope? (v4) What can we learn from Abraham's example in Romans 4?
  
- 6) Why doesn't hope put us to shame? (v5)
  
- 7) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives according to verse 5?
  
- 8) How has God demonstrated his love for us? (v6-8)
  
- 9) How do we grow in our character as we face trials and tribulations? (v4) What attributes do you think you still need growth in?
  
- 10) How can we help one another in cultivating that perseverance, which builds character, which leads to hope?

## Conclusion

Paul has been talking about Jews and Gentiles being justified by faith alone and not by works in Romans 3:21 – 4:25. As a result of this justification, we have peace and access to God, and we are all now standing in grace. We boast in the hope of the glory of God and find glory in our suffering. This is because we recognise that ultimately, as we cling and rely upon God through our hardships, we persevere on and build up our character and our holiness. The growth in our character leads us to realize that ultimately, our only hope in life is in Christ alone. This hope doesn't put us to shame during Judgement Day, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Christ has died for us when we were ungodly. This demonstrates God's love for us. That fact alone should fill us with hope. So, let us look to Christ and remember our justification as we go through hardships and struggles. Let us help each other to focus on Christ when we struggle, as it is very easy for us to be drawn inward. Our hope is not found inward, but rather in wonderful hope of the Gospel.