

PAK ROMANA

Pastor Ray Swash

When My Faith Is Tested!

Romans 5.1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5.1-5 (NIV)

Being declared **RIGHTOUSNESS** before God establishes a:

FOUNDATION to build upon . . .

SECURITY to fall upon . . .

FUTURE for the hope we have . . .

That **NOTHING** can take away from us!

A general view of faith exists:

A) If it 'LOGICALLY' makes sense when we make decisions

B) If it 'FEELS' right in the midst of our decisions

How FAITH serves us, when the WORLD does not:

I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.

John 16.33 (CEV)

In the world you will have tribulation . . .

John 16.33 (NKJV)

In this world you will have trouble . . .

John 16.33 (NCV)

Our responses:

STOICIC—Grin & Bear It—Suck it Up

- leads to denial, never dealing with the pain or brokenness

GLORY—Seize the Opportunity—Seek the Lesson

- leads to maturity and the growth of our character

My brothers and sisters, consider it nothing but joy when you fall into all sorts of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect effect, so that you will be perfect and complete, not deficient in anything.

James 1.2-4 (NET)

Key Words: Produces (Works towards)

- PERSEVERANCE

(steadfastness—the endurance of real faith)

- CHARACTER

(newness in Christ—the world has not changed, we have)

- HOPE

(reason we live—we see beyond the present into God's purpose)

Trails lead the follower of Christ to ONE place only:

TOTAL DEPENDANCE on Jesus

Although God is not the author of our trials, (choices made by us and the world around us) he uses them for **OUR** sake:

God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's training, the normal experience of children.

Hebrews 12.7 (MESSAGE)