

The Weary World Rejoices

Read Romans 5:1-5.

One of our Global Workers recently shared about a teammate who had been captured and left on a dirt road in the blazing heat. When faced with fear and uncertainty, this teammate began to praise God through song and recall the truths of Scripture in front of their captors. Their joy and peace made no sense to those watching, but it reflected exactly what Paul describes in Romans 5.

Paul was well acquainted with suffering too. If you haven't read about the shipwrecks and time in prison and other sufferings in Paul's life, I encourage you to read the books he authored in the New Testament. Despite his sufferings, Paul lived with true peace which stemmed from the gracious gift of salvation and relationship with Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Because believers are justified by being made right with God through faith in Jesus, we can experience true peace as well. Paul reminds us that we can rejoice, not because suffering itself is good, but because we know God is good and at work through it. He uses hardship to produce endurance, character, and hope. Through the Holy Spirit, His love is poured into our hearts, assuring us that we belong to Him and that we are never alone. What a gift to know He is with us in every moment, easy or hard. These are the good gifts of God that shine brightly in suffering, marking us as Authentic Ambassadors who reflect Jesus, the Light of the World.

Maybe you too have experienced some kind of suffering this year whether you've lost a loved one or a job, experienced difficulty in relationship with a family member, had grades that weren't what you expected or received difficult health news that rocked your world. We serve a God who knows suffering well too. Cry out to Him today with your burdens. Watch for the Lord to work through your suffering and rest in the truth that He is with you in it, working for our good and His glory. And as you do, may the hope of Christ rise in you through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for being the Giver of every good gift. Because we are made right with You, we have peace, joy, love, and hope. Be near to those who are suffering in various ways this season. Help us, even in our own trials, to shine Your hope brightly for the world to see and to trust the good work You are doing in us through every difficulty. Amen.

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