

Vantage – Our Boast In The LORD

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Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this **grace** in which we **stand**, and **rejoice** in hope of the glory of God. ³**And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now 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.

1. TRIBULATIONS

- a. The Greek word for tribulations (*thlipsis*) speaks of **pressure, affliction, distress** – the idea of being **pressed, constricted or hemmed in**.
- b. Other passages of scripture which hold similar ideas of ‘rejoice in tribulations’
- c. Jesus said while on earth in **John 16:33** - “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- d. **TRIALS: James 1:2-4** says it this way - “count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience...”
- e. **Tribulations: pressures, challenges and opposition we encounter that press against us, trying to challenge our faith and shift us from our position in God – our trust in Him.**
- f. Sometimes these pressures are **EXTERNAL** – circumstances around us, opposition we face, disappointments, living in a fallen world, or from the enemy who “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)
- g. Other times the pressure is **INTERNAL** – within our own soul: our thoughts, emotions, desires, weaknesses, fears. James 1:14 talks about us “being drawn away by our own desires and enticed”.
- h. **God is NOT the author of evil or temptation.**
- i. James 1:13 says, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”
- j. Jesus said He came that we “may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

- k. Our **FOCUS**: “When the pressure comes on, when we are faced with tribulations or trials, when we are challenged with setbacks – **WHERE ARE WE STANDING? WHAT IS OUR POSITION?**”

2. THE TRIBULATION DILEMMA

- a. Paul instructs us to **rejoice** or in NKJV ‘**we also glory in**’ tribulations. James says: “**to count it all JOY** when you fall into various trials.” Jesus said “in the world you will have tribulations; but **be of good cheer**”
- b. **The dilemma**. Surely Scripture isn't telling us that we have to be cheerful about the pressure we're going through? Or that somehow the tribulation itself is good? **This is ABSOLUTELY NOT what Scripture is saying!**
- c. What are Paul and James saying that changes the way WE can respond to and in tribulations/pressure?
- d. WHERE we are STANDING makes all the difference to HOW we persevere.

3. REJOICE - OUR BOAST IN THE LORD

- a. The Greek word for ‘glory’ or ‘rejoice’ in Romans 5:3 (kauchaomai), means to, ‘glory in, exult, rejoice or **to BOAST**’.
- b. This Greek word shows imagery of ‘**holding your head high in confidence.**’
- c. WHAT ARE WE BOASTING IN?
- d. Natural advantages can only take us so far – our own strength, wisdom, ability, resources.
- e. Jeremiah 9:23–24 “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; **But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me...**”
- f. Corinthians 1:31 “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” - **Our BOAST is in the LORD!**
- g. Our confidence is not in ourselves or our own ability. **Our confidence is in GOD – WHO He is and what He has done for us.**
- h. Romans 5 begins to read differently. **We don’t rejoice BECAUSE of the tribulation. We can rejoice IN the tribulation because our BOAST is in the LORD.**
- i. In good times – **we BOAST in God.** Under pressure – **we BOAST in God.**

j. Why? Because the tribulation is enjoyable? **NO!** Because **GOD DOES NOT CHANGED**. His grace has not changed. What Christ has secured for us has not changed. **Our BOAST has not changed!**

k. Philippians 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

4. **REJOICE: VANTAGE POINT – THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND**

a. Rejoice also speaks of a VANTAGE POINT— a position from which we are looking at a tribulation. Rather than being underneath it. We are positioned high above the circumstances, standing in God’s GRACE.

b. A VANTAGE POINT is a position or place from which we view something, a position that gives us a commanding view.

c. Paul tells us in Romans 5, because of Jesus we have peace with God, and we have access by faith into His GRACE.

GRACE is where we stand. Our Vantage is this Grace in which we stand – Who God is, all that Jesus has secured, our position because of the blood and all that He has equipped us with.

d. **God has given us HIS ADVANTAGE. He has positioned us with His Commanding View.** God has raised us up and seated us in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. We hold our heads high in His confidence.

5. **STAND THEREFORE – Be Strong in the LORD and HIS Might**

a. **Ephesians 6:10-18 -Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.** ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to **stand against the wiles(schemes) of the devil.** ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand.** ¹⁴ **Stand therefore...**

b. God has EQUIPPED us to stand against the enemy and withstand in the evil day.

c. 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 - ⁷ ... that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. ⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

6. **PROVEN FAITH – Abraham: Fully Convinced in the One Who Promised**

a. Romans 4:19-21 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform

- b. GOD PROMISED Abraham: Land. Descendants. A great nation. His name made great. Nations and kings coming from him. A son through Sarah. God confirmed His Promise with a covenant. (Genesis 12:1–3, 7; 13:14–16; 15:1–6, 18; 17:4–7, 19)
- c. Between the PROMISES and the FULFILMENT was a journey/a need to PERSEVERE
- d. Hebrews 10:35 - Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. Verse 39: ... we are not of those who draw back...

7. PERSEVERANCE – Remain Steadfast: Endurance Under Pressure

- a. Perseverance is NOT giving up. It is not casting away our confidence in the LORD. Perseverance is GETTING BACK UP!
- b. **The Greek word for PERSEVERANCE** in Romans 5 (*hypomonē*). It means endurance, steadfastness, patient continuing; **remaining under the pressure and not being moved from ones position.**

8. CHARACTER – When Our Faith is Tested

- a. Romans 5 “**perseverance [produces] character; and character, HOPE.**”
- b. The word for character here carries the idea of **proven character — something that has been tested and shown to be genuine.**
- c. James 1:2–4 “Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces patience [perseverance]. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
- d. Notice James doesn’t say that we are being tested to see whether we are good enough. He says **it is the testing of our faith.**
- e. When pressure comes, the enemy wants to challenge the Word of God that we are standing on. Jesus showed us this in the Parable of the Sower. Mark 4:17 says affliction and persecution arise “for the Word’s sake.”

9. VICTORY – The Sword in Which We Boast

- a. Deuteronomy 33:29 - (Berean Standard Bible) “*Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is the shield that protects you, the sword in which you boast. Your enemies will cower before you, and you shall trample their high places.*”

NLT: “...*your enemies will cringe before you, and you will stomp on their backs!*”

WHAT A VANTAGE! WHAT A REASON TO BOAST! We are saved by the LORD, standing in His Grace, equipped with His armour and weapons. **Our confidence, our victory, our reason to hold our head high is HIM—OUR BOAST IS IN THE LORD!** Jesus has already secured the VICTORY. So we **PERSEVERE. We STAND. We keep believing. We keep speaking. We hold our POSITION.**

2 Chronicles 20:17 - “You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.”