

## Hope

You are probably wondering, Romans 5:1...? Are we going backwards? No. There is so much in Romans chapter 5 that I am dealing with it through various topics. The topic for today is hope. How do we achieve hope in the Christian life?

**Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

As a result of being declared righteous by God, i.e. justification, we have peace with God. There is a peace with God and the peace of God. Here we have peace with God. We are no longer enemies of God. But it is more than a truce or treaty. We are now on God's team. We are citizens of heaven. Legal citizens of heaven. We are family under God's care.

**Romans 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God (the glory of God is His character demonstrated).**

We will share in God's glory. We are exhibits in the Angelic Conflict. God took his enemy, that is each one of us, and through our response called faith, he justified us and provided many blessings. We know that at the point of salvation God gives us 33 or more blessings. By faith in what the Devil told him and Eve, Adam fell. It was a permanent status of separation from God. Except, God provided an escape through faith in Jesus Christ. The salvation of each and every believer glorifies God. And

**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**

now we can glorify God through walking by faith dependence on God the Holy Spirit. Again, God's glory is a demonstration of His character.

**Romans 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;**

**Exult.** This can be translated boast, exult. We are not boasting in what we can do but what God is doing through us. It is often used in a positive sense to celebrate or be joyful. We must understand that tribulations (thlipsis or pressure) is part of the Christian life. But it is on the path of maturity. We are encouraged to joy in our tribulations because they lead to maturity IF we accept those tribulations while in faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. And that maturity draws us closer to a more intense, intimate relationship with God the Father.

I want to stop and emphasize something I have already emphasized. It is, to me, important. As you grow and mature in your Christian life you will develop an intimacy with God the Father. Look at Paul and His prayers to God and answers he received. Or even Jesus. We should talk to God the Father as Jesus did.

**Romans 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;**

**Tribulations→ Perseverance→ Proven Character→ Hope**

In what follows, much of the material comes from Robby Dean's lessons on hope from Romans. He spent four hours on this concept! I am attempting here to summarize his material in a single hour. Here is an important observation:

“In these verses in Romans 5, we have the ABCs of the Christian life summarized. “Adversity builds Christian character. A-adversity, B-

## Hope Romans 5:1-4

builds, C-Christian character. God says there is no other way to build Christian character than to face adversity with the promises and provisions that God has given us. Anything else is a shortcut and destroys the process.<sup>1</sup>”

**Tribulations.** This is the Greek word for pressure. It is an often used word for suffering and tribulations. These are an expected challenge in the Christian life. It is not to be feared. Listen to James:

**James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren,  
when you encounter various trials,**

**James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your  
faith produces endurance.**

**James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect  
result, so that you may be perfect and  
complete, lacking in nothing.**

**Perseverance.** This is a word for patience. Herman suggests that this word is related to pressure from circumstances. Here is a quote from Herman in his lessons on 1 Thessalonians.

“Greek word for perseverance is makrothumia translated longsuffering and refers to patience or perseverance or being longsuffering in regards to people.”

“In our Spiritual Love we are longsuffering towards One Another. But there is yet another word translated patience or perseverance *hupomone* which refers to being patient or persevering in respect to things or circumstances<sup>2</sup>” That is our word here in Romans.

### **Proven Character.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-050b/read>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Thessalonians/notes/2015-10-25Sunday\\_Morning.pdf](https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Thessalonians/notes/2015-10-25Sunday_Morning.pdf)

**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**

Have you ever been on a team, either in the military or in civilian life and been tested and came out winners? There is a sense of achievement. There is a sense that what the team did as a group, depending upon each other, was the right thing. It will be something you will remember for the rest of your life. Here is proven character. You were tested and were successful. As a result you have...hope which is confident expectation. We can do that again. We know how it is done.

**Hope.** The Greek, as we know from previous lessons, is best translated as “confident expectation.” But where does it come from? Let’s check Galatians chapter 5 for the divine nine:

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness,**

**Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control;  
against such things there is no law.**

As good as this passage is, there is no “hope” listed here. The divine nine come with the filling of the Holy Spirit. It is true that these characteristics can be strengthened by daily walking in the Spirit plus the study of Bible Doctrine (promises). But hope, as we see here in Romans chapter 5 is the result of a process. It is not something that you obtains in toto in a moment in time or with just a few points in a lesson. It is the result of living. It is the result of constant walking in the Holy Spirit.

For Paul, the word “hope” is important. The noun is used 13 times in the book of Romans. The verb is used four times.

“Hope is related to faith. Faith is the act of belief, and hope is that confidence and is faith on steroids. It takes it to another level because

## Hope Romans 5:1-4

you are focusing on something in the future that you have a certainty about that strengthens your faith today.<sup>3</sup>”

“So hope is a present reality based on a past promise that anticipates a future destiny. It shapes in our thinking a level of confidence in God, so that when we face the challenges and vicissitudes of life, we are not knocked down by them but can stand firm and develop through the Word a mentality of toughness and strength.<sup>4</sup>”

“Hope is based on a past promise of a future reality. And hope provides the believer with such confidence in a future reality so certain that it strengthens and toughens the believer’s mentality today to face the fight and to surmount unpleasant circumstances with a mentality of joy even in the midst of difficulty.<sup>5</sup>”

“Hope really focuses on the expansion of faith, and it is much more robust than faith. It is not unrelated to faith, but it is faith on steroids and focusing on the future. Hope is related to our future destiny, where that becomes more real to us than our present time.<sup>6</sup>”

In our rush rush world today, there is an emphasis on getting immediate results. A young child can hardly wait to become an adult. But it takes time to grow and to mature in one’s decision making abilities. I am reminded of a Dilbert comic strip. In it, a secretary pleads with Dilbert to make her an engineer even if it takes all afternoon. We know that is not possible. A seasoned engineer goes through years of schooling in math, physics. Perhaps achieving a Master of Science (MS) or even PhD. Then it may take years of applying what the engineer has learned to become a seasoned engineer. So the Christian life requires learning about God, our relationship to God and the assets we have to live the Christian life. Then

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3 <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-050b/read>

4 <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-051b/read>

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**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**

we apply what we have learned to life's challenges. This process can be accelerated by suffering. By tribulation.

**Tribulations→ Perseverance→ Proven Character→ Hope**

When we are presented with daily pressures, the issue is how will the Christian react to those pressures? He can be grumpy. He can react in anger or hatred. The list of bad mental attitudes is long. But the correct response is to apply Bible answers to the situation. It may be simple to claim a promise. But will you?

**1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,**

**1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**

Let God take care of the details. You can go about your day empowered by the Holy Spirit to accomplish your tasks patiently. The word for perseverance is a word for patience. Waiting. Faith.

Proven character. This is a step in the maturing process.

Hope. Let me quote a neat sentence from Robby Dean.

“Hope is based on a past promise of a future reality.”

“Just as faith grabs hold of a promise, so hope focuses on the future fulfillment of that promise.”<sup>7</sup>

Take the 1 Peter 5:7 verse. In the past, God provided a promise through Peter, who got it from Psalm 55:22

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<sup>7</sup> <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-052b/read>

**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**

**Casting.** Literally, throwing. This isn't putting something down delicately. No, this is throwing, flinging...get rid of it now! This involves having God take care of something. If you have actions to do, you do them. The Holy Spirit isn't going to go to work for you. But instead of worrying, have I done enough...is it good enough. You can ask God to empower you to do a good job. But in the end, it is God that wins the victory for you:

**2 Chronicles 20:14 Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph;**

**2 Chronicles 20:15 and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.'"**

**2 Chronicles 20:16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel.**

**2 Chronicles 20:17 You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed;**

**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**

**tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.”**

In some battles, you don't have to do anything but just trust God and His promise as here. Also in Gideon's case, he watched a battle between two enemies. At other times, you go out to fight and it is God that makes you successful.

Robby Dean has an extensive discussion of virtues. I am just going to summarize using a slide.

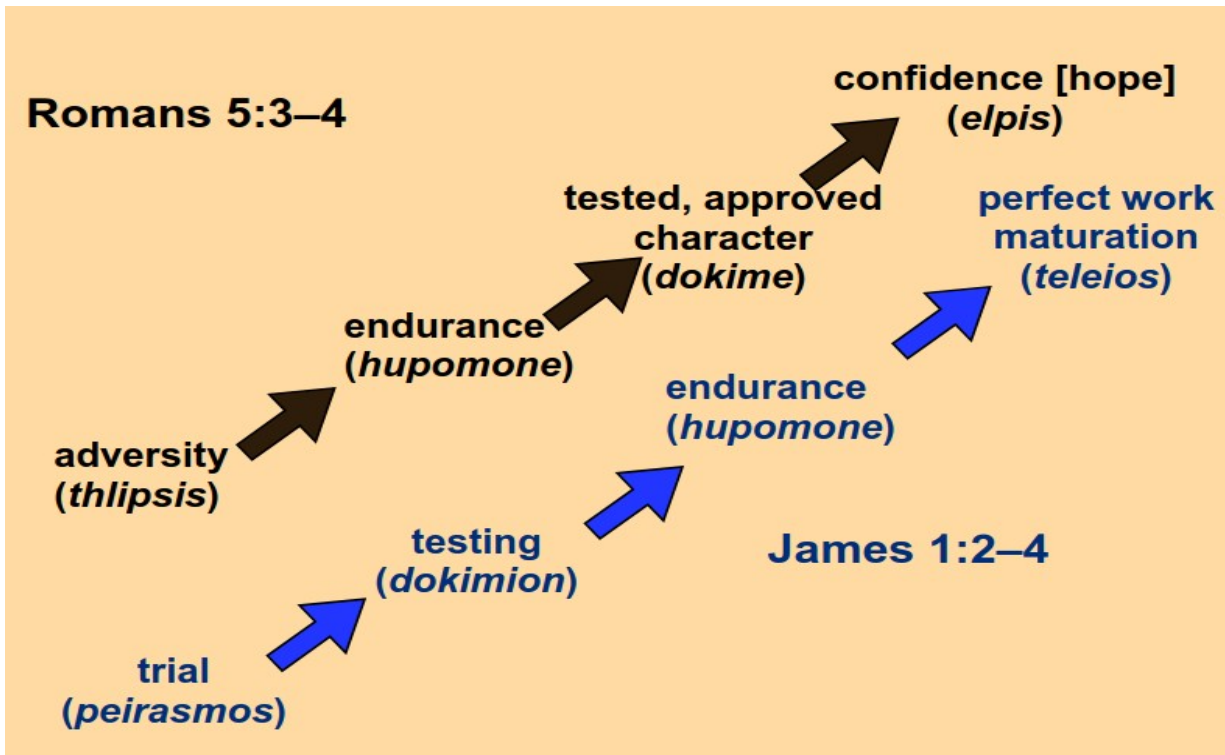
The apostle Paul and other writers of the New Testament have lists of virtues. We have encountered one here in Romans 5:3-4.

**Tribulations→ Perseverance→ Proven Character→ Hope**

Robby calls them virtue ladders. One thing leads to another and another. This is part of the growth process for a Christian. Robby Dean studies this passage as well as James 1:2-5, 2 Peter 1:5-7 and Galatians 5:22-26. The James and Peter passages are pertinent to our study in that they both include the word “endurance.” It is an important word associated with hope.

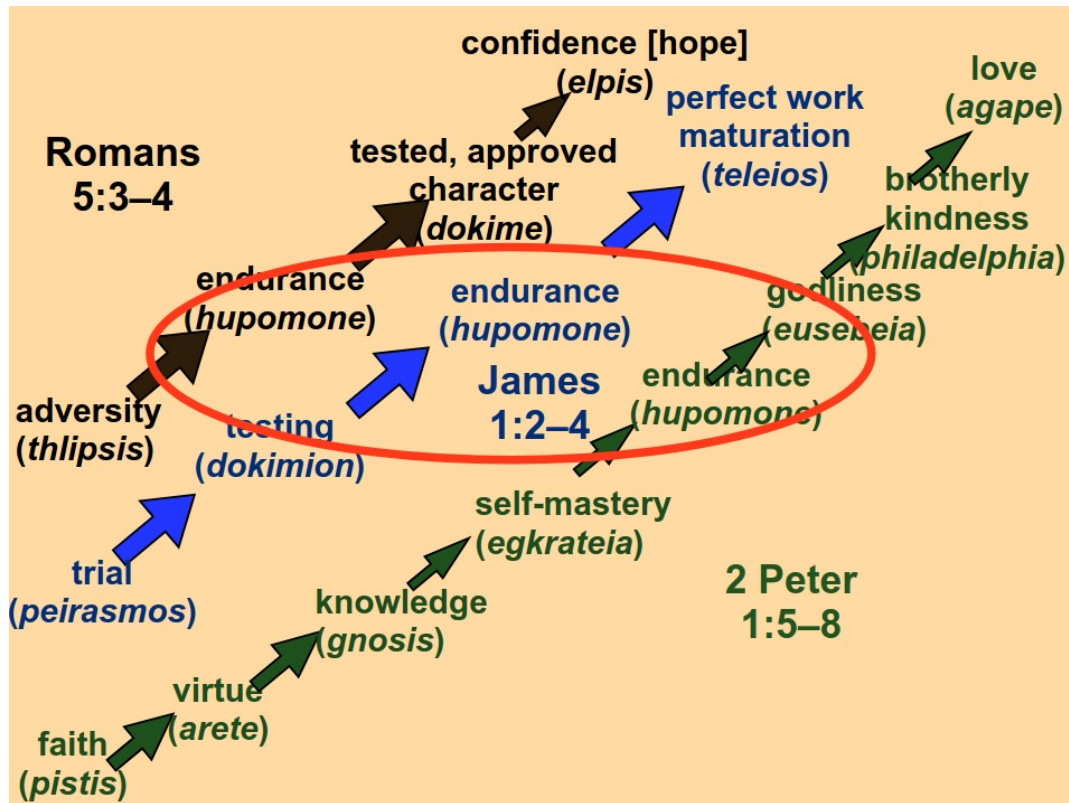


**Hope**  
**Romans 5:1-4**



It is important to avoid saying this is the only way to get to the endpoints. The writers have picked some milestones in the path of Christian maturity. Learning about God is not a “Yellow Brick Road.”

# Hope Romans 5:1-4



9