

## Romans 5:1-11

"Rejoice" is the key to this whole 5th Chapter. We are to rejoice in our redemption. We are to rejoice in our sufferings. We are to rejoice in our God & Father. When we really begin to understand Christianity it will produce a rejoicing spirit.

We rest in this fact: **Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens, and he does as he wishes.**

Can you imagine what it would be like  
if God who rules the universe... was not happy?  
If God were frustrated... despondent... gloomy...  
and discontented... would David have said...

**"I seek thee...my soul thirsts for thee...my flesh faints for thee."**

**Psalm 135:5-7 I know the greatness of the Lord—that our Lord is greater than any other god. The Lord does whatever pleases him throughout all heaven and earth, and on the seas and in their depths. He causes the clouds to rise over the whole earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from his storehouses.**

The sovereignty of God is the foundation for his own happiness.

Yes... He gets angry... He grieves at the evil in the world.  
But... God is not frustrated. He governs the world with glory...  
so that He might be praised and exalted.

Which is more important to God... that we receive love from Him  
or... that we give love to Him?

Someone noted: **"If you come to God dutifully offering Him the reward of your fellowship instead of thirsting after the reward of his fellowship, then you exalt yourself above God as his benefactor and belittle him as a needy beneficiary—and that is evil."**

Worship is basically adoration... we adore what delights us.

Bottom line... God is the fulfillment of everything for us.

As we study stories like, 2 Kings 4 — The Shunammite Woman

We learn that God is the fulfillment of our joy... and our needs.

Let's look now at Romans Chapter 5... to see what God has for us.

**Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.**

We have "peace with God" — The war is over! We accept God's terms and,  
we have acceptance by God on those terms.

God is no longer just "the judge." He is now... our father.

The "fear factor" is gone... even the fear of death

**Hebrews 2:14-15 Because God's children are human beings —made of flesh and blood— the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of**

**death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.**

In the Garden of Eden — Adam, Eve & God were best friends

Sin entered — New emotions began to show... "I was afraid" was a new feeling.

Fear entered — that is the devil's major weapon.

When we are at odds with a close friend or spouse — we sense a fear....

**3-5 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.**

Our new relationship with God has removed all condemnation and fear.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.**

Sometimes our difficulties are not tests for growth – but are corrections.

**Hebrews 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.**

The purpose is to develop Christian Character. We are broken... to produce fruit.

We are pruned... to produce love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

As one saint stated, "**Sunshine all the time only makes a desert.**"

In the world's view, something broken is only to be thrown away.

In God's view, something is broken to be reshaped for a purpose.

**Mark 12:31 Jesus said... Love others as well as you love yourself. There is no other commandment that ranks with these.**

Another way of saying that is, "love your neighbor with the same intensity that you already love yourself."

**Romans 12:14-16 Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. (MSG)**

Major Ian Thomas has a section in one of his books titled *Any Old Bush Will Do*. He explains... **There wasn't anything about the bush that was unique except for the fact that God chose to put His fire in it. It is in the school of destitution – the bitter school of self-discovery – that finally you graduate into usefulness, when at last you discover the total bankruptcy of what you are apart from what God is. As we begin to see brokenness as God's purpose, we learn to better understand God's ways.**

Paul said — ...**that I may know Him (Jesus) and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.**

**6-11 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person,**

though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was re-stored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Justification frees us from death. Reconciliation brings eternal life in us.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** This means that our knowledge of men can no longer be based on their outward lives (indeed, even though we knew Christ as a man we do not know him like that any longer). For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether—the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. All this is God's doing, for he has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ; and he has made us agents of the reconciliation. God was in Christ personally reconciling the world to himself—not counting their sins against them—and has commissioned us with the message of reconciliation. We are now Christ's ambassadors, as though God were appealing direct to you through us. As his personal representatives we say, "Make your peace with God." (Phillips)

Original sin is the root of all sin... a reason the devil pushes "evolution" so hard... it does away with "original sin" and, in reality, it gets rid of Romans Chapters 5-6-7-8.

**Redemption - Puts us in Christ — Regeneration - Puts Christ in us.**