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Rejoicing in Suffering

ROMANS 5:3-5

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

READ | ROMANS 5:3-5

THINK ABOUT

Christ Himself suffered, and all New Testament churches experienced suffering.

Those sufferings produce endurance, character, and hope. Therefore we rejoice.

Paul promises God's love to be poured into our hearts in these difficult circumstances of life.

APPLY

We live in a society which wants to escape any suffering as quickly as possible. Billions of dollars are spent on pain management. Therefore we may resent any suffering!

But do not be surprised when suffering comes into your life. It is easy to become bitter or angry in these difficult situations of life.

Rather than complaining when suffering comes, think of the impact of these sufferings in your character and as an example to others.

Draw on God's love, which we need so desperately in these tough situations.

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ASK

What sufferings have you experienced in your life?

How can we actually rejoice in these tough situations? Is that realistic?

What have you seen in your life and the lives of others (positive and negative) through sufferings?

Discuss situations where you have experienced God's love in a fresh and powerful way in the middle of suffering and trials.

PRAY

Pray for God to strengthen you in your sufferings, and also that you may rejoice in them.

Thank God for His love which he pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Thank God for the endurance, character, and hope which these sufferings produce.



“Blessed Be Your Name” — Redman

HYMN

The Love of God

1. The love of God is great-er far Than tongue or pen can ev-er tell,
 2. When hour-y time shall pass a-way, And earth-ly thrones and king-doms fall,
 3. Could we with ink the o-cean fill, And were the skies of parch-ment made,

It goes be-yond the high-est star, And reach-es to the low-est hell;
 When men who stalk re-fuse to pray, On rocks and hills and moun-tains call;
 Were ev-ery stalk on earth a quill And ev-ery man a scribe by trade;

The guilt-y pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
 God's love, so sure, shall still en-dure, All meas-ure-less and strong;
 To write the love of God a-bove, Would drain the o-cean dry;

His err-ing child, He rec-on-ciled, And par-doned from his sin.
 Re-deem-ing grace to Ad-am's race, The saints' and an-gels' song.
 Nor could the scroll con-tain the whole, Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh love of God, how rich and pure! How meas-ure-less and strong!

It shall for-ev-er-more en-dure, The saints' and an-gels' song.

Text & Tune  Frederick M. Lehman, 1917



A scenic view of a colorful coastal town built on a rocky cliffside overlooking the sea at dusk. The buildings are densely packed and feature a variety of colors including yellow, orange, red, and white. The sky is a deep blue with soft, wispy clouds. The water in the foreground is dark blue with gentle ripples. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and romantic.

I HAVE
LOVED YOU
WITH AN
EVERLASTING
LOVE

JEREMIAH 31:3