

Hope

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 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. (Romans 5:1-5)

Faith is a gift through which we receive our salvation.

Faith is not something we have to work up ourselves, not internally generated but a gift of God to enable and empower us. (Eph 2:8)

Faith reconciles us with the Father and brings us into the realm of grace.

It is available to everyone.

Our faith enables us to step out of the prison -
but do we remain bound?

There is so much more for us than just our
salvation.

We have received the deposit but there is our
full inheritance as sons and daughters.

And so we can rejoice in our future inheritance.

We can rejoice in the goodness of God - of who he is and what he has done.

AND we can rejoice in.....

.....our sufferings!

Progression:

Suffering

Endurance

Character

And it all leads to HOPE

And because of 'HOPE' we are not supposed to be disappointed, mocked or put to shame.

The problem we have is that after all the suffering, endurance and character building we still feel disappointed!

We can have loads of hope but still end up feeling let down, disillusioned or disappointed.

Something tells us we should be happy because God has poured his love into our hearts.

Not meant to be cast down or sorrowful - yet we are.

We think that the logical progression (or the reward) of: suffering, endurance and character building is to receive love.

Actually the other way round:

Because God has poured his love into our hearts we can have hope in our sufferings, through our endurance and see the way the fruit of the Spirit transforms us.

Changes it from hope in our own ability to an eternal hope in what he has done for us.

“You gotta have hope. Without hope life is meaningless. Without hope life is meaning less and less”

Faith is the substance of things hoped for but not yet seen (Hebrews 11:1) We can pull the future reality in our present.

And hope is not a disappointing fantasy, because we can now experience the endless love of God cascading into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (Romans 5:5 TPT)