

Romans

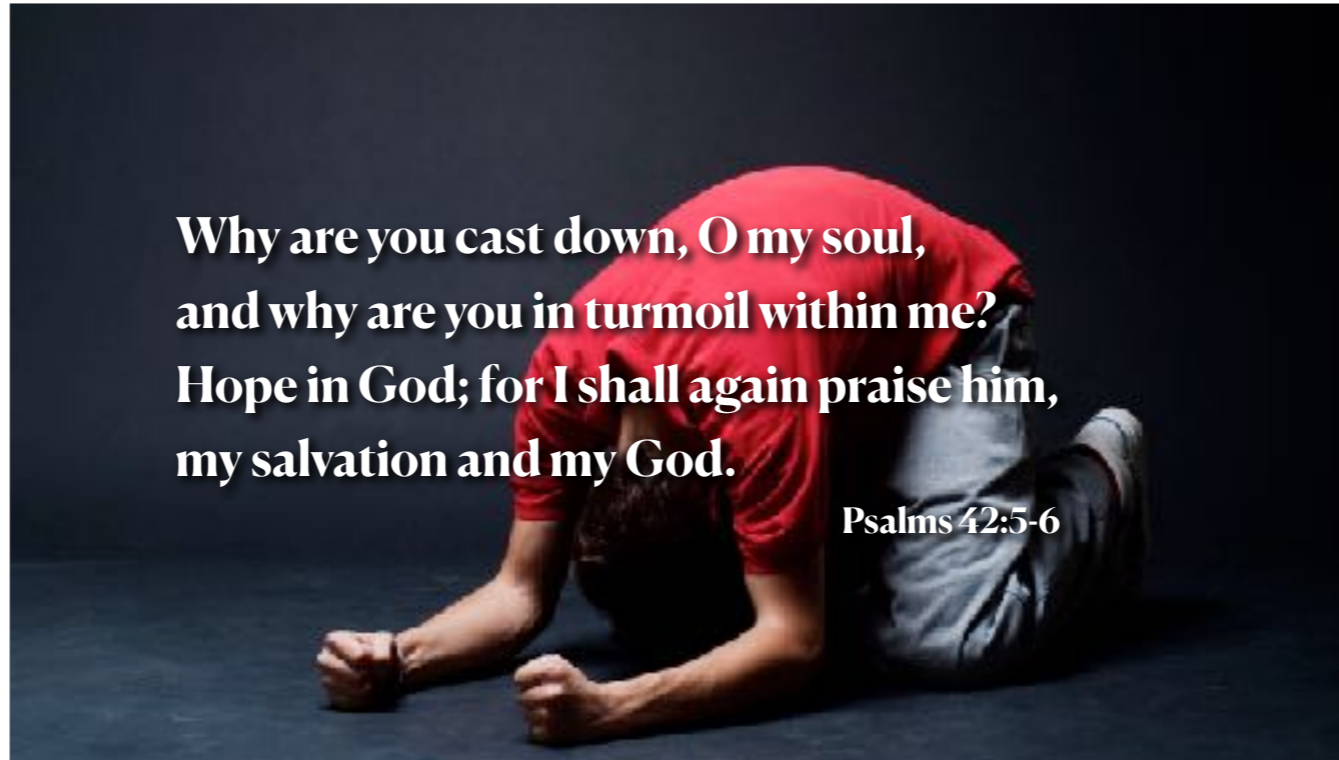
"Things may be tough now, but there's
always a light at the end of the tunnel."

- Meme
- Things may be tough now, but there's always a light at the end of the tunnel.

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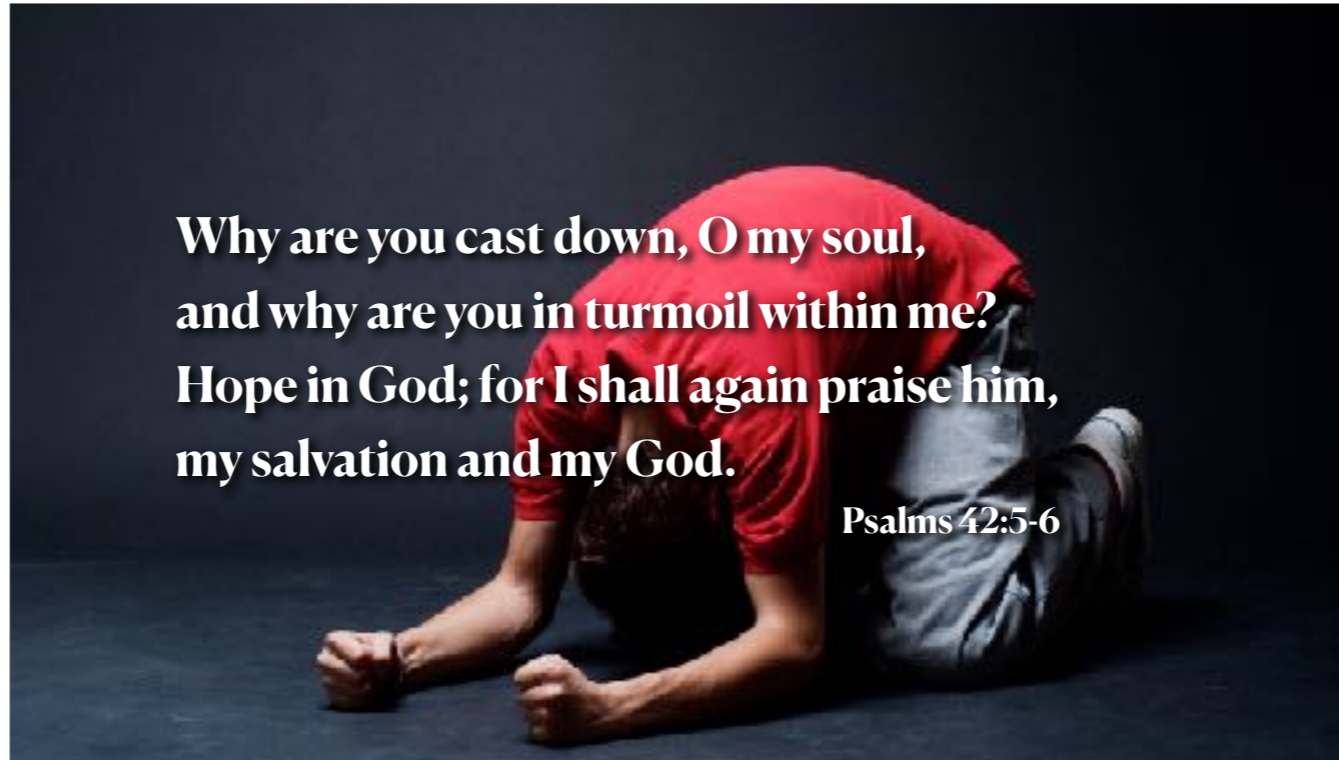
The light at the end of the tunnel:

- The light at the end of the tunnel:
- Darth Vader (very bad guy)



• Psalms 42:5-6; 11; 43:5

• Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.



- Ever had a song get stuck in your head? For me, usually the chorus.
- David's song is introspective
 - Recognizes his own emotions and struggles
 - Turns to God in Hope
 - Praise
 - Who God is: salvation and God (personal)
- How's your hope "level" right now?
 - Struggling? Cast down? Turmoil?
 - Do you need to keep reminding yourself?

In hope he believed against hope

Romans 4:18



- Romans 4:16-25 (ESV) 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” 23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

In hope he believed against hope

Romans 4:18

God's promise & power:



- Promise
 - Foundation:
 - grace
 - guaranteed to all
 - faith

In hope he believed against hope

Romans 4:18

God's promise & power:

☆ father of many nations



- 17: Father of many nations
 - in hope he believed against hope

In hope he believed against hope

Romans 4:18

God's promise & power:

- ☆ father of many nations
- ☆ gives life to the dead
- ☆ calls into existence the things that do not exist



- gives life to the dead (Abraham's body)
- calls into existence the things that do not exist (Isaac) (power of God, not just foreknowledge!)
 - Is this a reference to Sarah's barrenness: no egg existed to be fertilized?
- so shall your offspring be

In hope he believed against hope

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God's promise & power:

- ☆ father of many nations
- ☆ gives life to the dead
- ☆ calls into existence the things that do not exist

Circumstances:

- ✗ his own body: dead
- ✗ Sarah barren



• Circumstances

- faith did not weaken
- own body - as good as dead
- barrenness of Sarah's womb

In hope he believed against hope

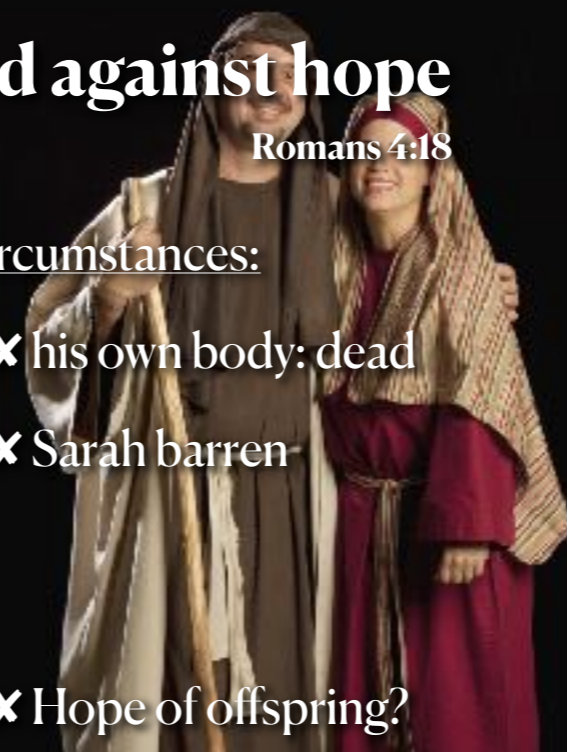
Romans 4:18

God's promise & power:

- ☆ father of many nations
- ☆ gives life to the dead
- ☆ calls into existence the things that do not exist
- ☆ Hope of offspring?

Circumstances:

- ✗ his own body: dead
- ✗ Sarah barren
- ✗ Hope of offspring?



- Hope of offspring?
 - Circumstances = 0 (zero)
 - God's promises?
- No unbelief made him waver concerning the promises of God
 - grew strong in his faith
 - gave glory to God
 - fully convinced God was able to do what he had promised

In hope he believed against hope

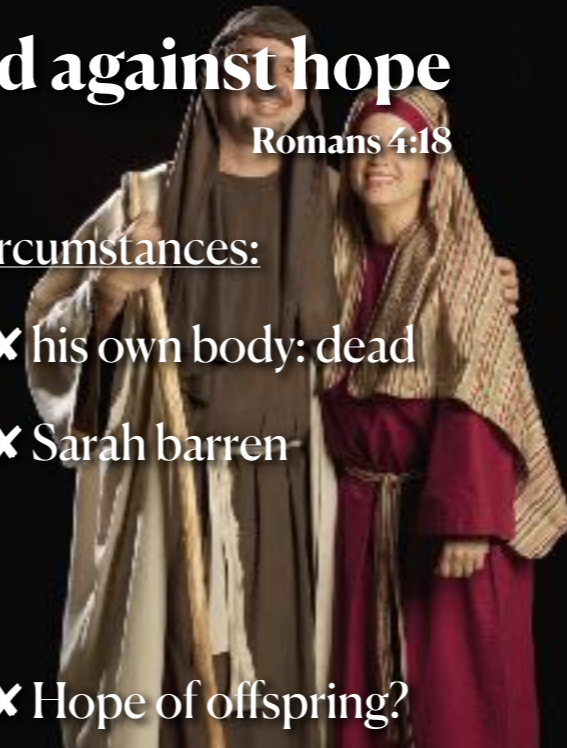
Romans 4:18

God's promise & power:

- ☆ father of many nations
- ☆ gives life to the dead
- ☆ calls into existence the things that do not exist
- ☆ Hope of offspring?

Circumstances:

- ✗ his own body: dead
- ✗ Sarah barren
- ✗ Hope of offspring?



• Application:

- God makes promises and we have faith in him.
- We don't ignore the circumstances (they are real), or struggles: rather we embrace them.
- The Hope of God's promises is always greater than our circumstances.



We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:2

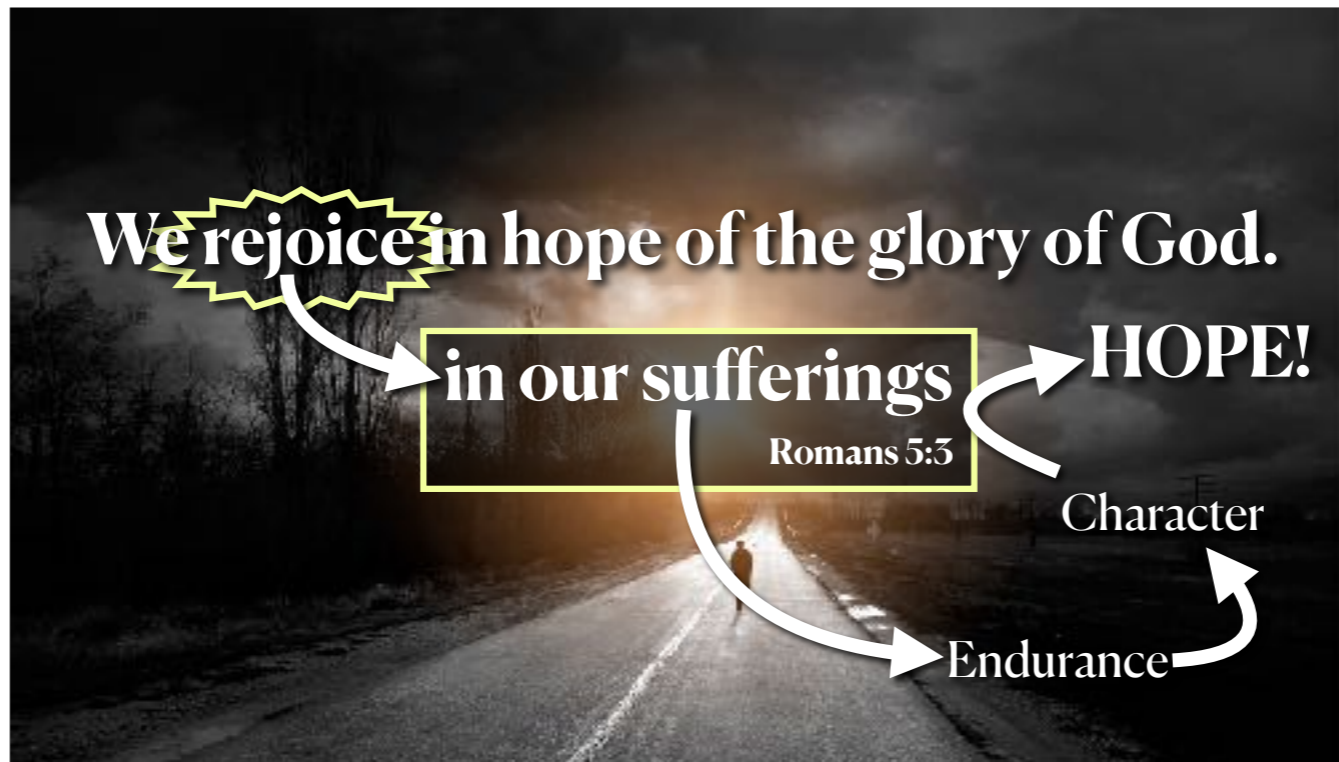
- Romans 5:1-5 (ESV)
- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith,
 - we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this **grace** in which we stand,



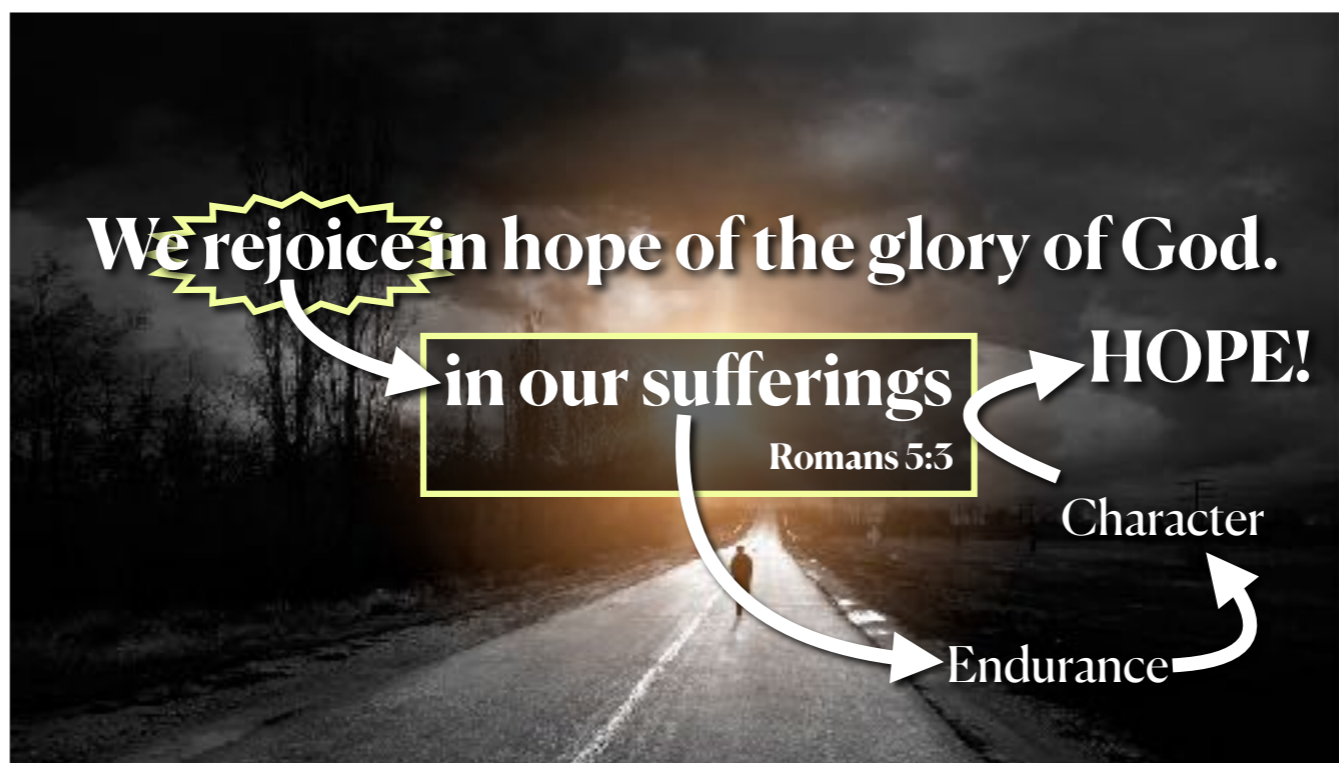
- and we **rejoice in hope**
 - of the glory of God.
 - Looks forward to the outcome of our salvation, of course
 - But more ... that we are being conformed to the image of Christ, not just one day, but now.



- 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings
 - What??? How possible???
- How Satan Uses Suffering...
 - Inevitable, Unfair, Continuous
 - Doubt God, question.
 - Grumbling against God.
 - Focus only on the suffering, the moment
 - Despair, lose hope, give up.



- How does God use suffering?
 - 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.



- This is not instantaneous... takes time.
- That's why we need the endurance.
- That's why we need to change our character ... more Christ like!
 - John 12:27-28 (ESV) 27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."
- Hope ...
 - because God loves me!
 - Gave me Holy Spirit.
- Saved you ... will glorify you.



**But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.**

Romans 8:25

- Romans 8:18-25 (ESV)



**But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.**

Romans 8:25

GLORY
to be revealed



SUFFERINGS
of this present

- 18 For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worth comparing with **the glory that is to be revealed to us**.
- A key to hope, especially when suffering, is to keep our perspective properly focused.
 - Not on the now and the pain
 - But on God, and the glory, soon.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV) 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



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SUFFERINGS
of this present

- 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.
- 20 For the creation was subjected to **futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it,
 - in hope 21 that the creation itself
 - will be **set free from its bondage to corruption** and
 - obtain **the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**
- 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.



**But if we hope for what we do not see,
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GLORY
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SUFFERINGS
of this present

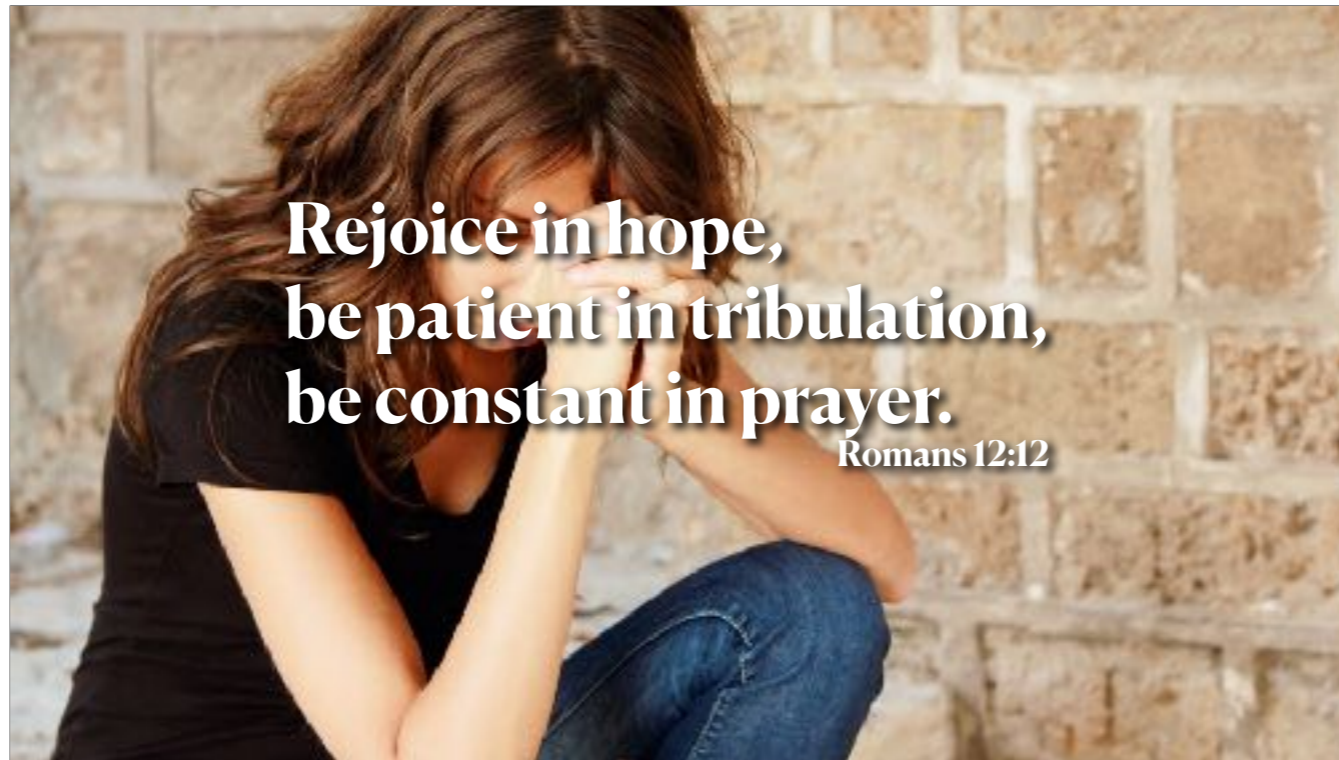
- 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
 - groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for **adoption as sons**, the **redemption of our bodies**.
 - 24 For **in this hope we were saved**.



- Now hope that is seen is not hope.
 - For who hopes for what he sees?
 - 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, **we wait for it with patience.**
- Not if, but when...
 - temporary



- Romans 12:12
 - Rejoice in hope,
 - be patient in tribulation,
 - be constant in prayer.
- Psalm 42-43:

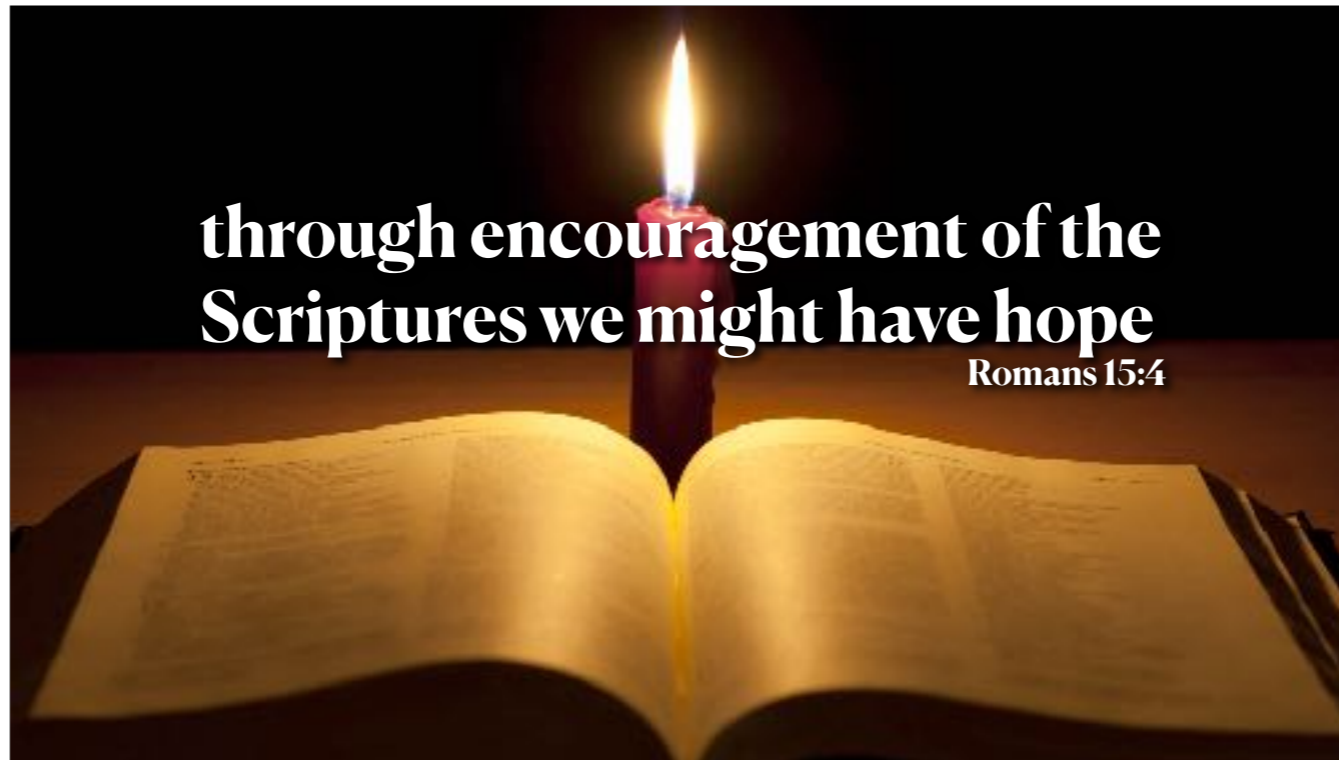


**Rejoice in hope,
be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.**

Romans 12:12

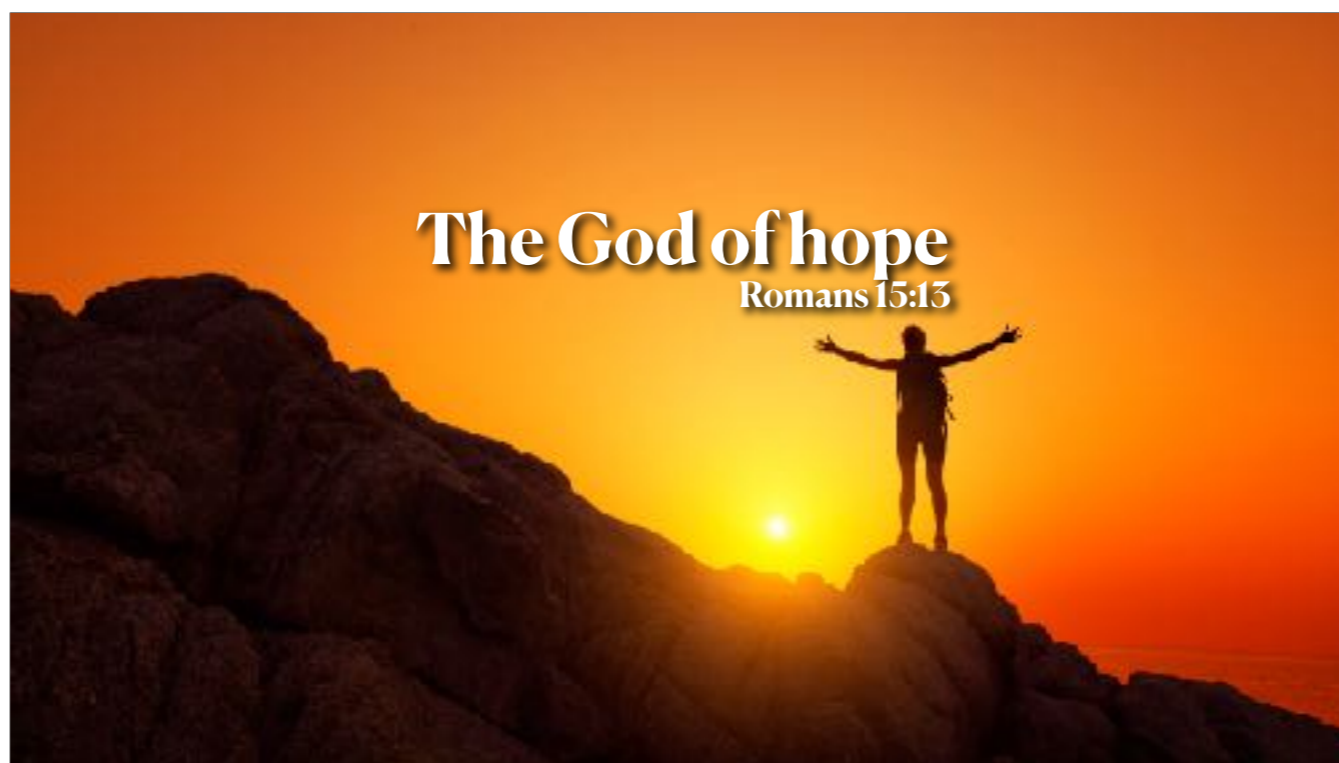
• Psalm 42-43:

- He misses being with God, assembling with God's people full of joy.
- He is taunted by enemies: Where is your God?
- He feels forgotten by God
- He's mourning and crying.
- Looks forward to return to God.
- This is a prayer ... and a song.
 - Emotions expressed, struggles named
 - We need to be singing to our God.



**through encouragement of the
Scriptures we might have hope**
Romans 15:4

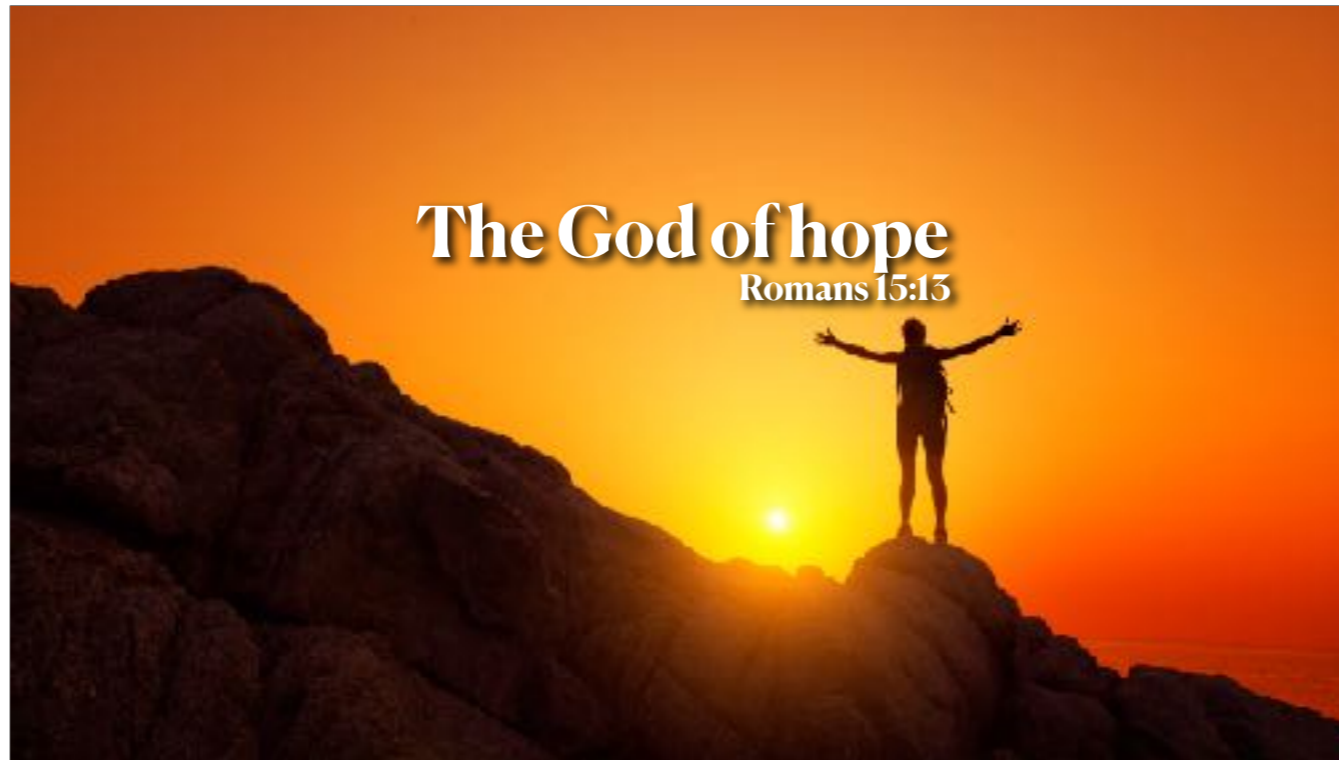
- Romans 15:4 (ESV)
- For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction,
 - that through endurance and
 - through the encouragement of the Scriptures
 - we might have hope.



- Romans 15:8-13 (ESV)
- 8 For I tell you that **Christ** became a **servant** to the circumcised **to show God's truthfulness**,
 - in order **to confirm the promises** given to the patriarchs,



- 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.
 - As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”
 - 10 And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”
 - 11 And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”
 - 12 And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; **in him will the Gentiles hope.**”



- 13 May the God of hope
 - fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 - so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may **abound in hope**.
- Whatever your struggles:
 - Hope in the God of Hope who saves you.
 - Rejoice in Him.
 - Wait for Him patiently
 - Pray and Sing and Read His Word

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Hope

Romans

Synopsis: In Romans, Paul reminds us of the importance of our hope. Our God is the God of Hope, and we are saved in hope. Our suffering helps us to learn hope so that we can rejoice, wait patiently for him and remember to pray, sing, and read the Word.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”