

Paster Rains
 June 9 2013
 Sunday Morning

With our Savior and our God. It's settled. But I want to tell you there's a plus. Instead of just talking about the fact that we have a relationship with God through Christ, we have peace with God, we are declared righteous, which is all wonderful, it's the whole foundation for everything we have in eternity. There is a great plus. Plus, and the plus is in Romans chapter 5, verses 1 and 2. **The plus,**

"1Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

That's what justification means. And we're sinless before God because we come to Him through Christ's righteousness, not through ours. We have none. but we come and we stand before God in Christ's righteousness. Now, that is as far as our spiritual relationship to God is concerned. We're sinless before God. As far as our relationship to God is concerned.

You say, you say, but I do sin every day. I have problems every day. I'm saying, as far as your relationship to God is concerned, you are sinless. Now, your everyday relationship with God, that living and breathing relationship that the Bible calls your fellowship with Him. Yes, there are things that occur there that have to be dealt with. What provision does God make for us? For us, His children.

What provision does He make for us to deal with our everyday problems? Everyday life down here on the earth. What provision does He make? And, uh, that's where Romans chapter 5, verses 3 through 5 come in. He makes some wonderful provision. The first thing He says in verse 3 is,

3And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

I'm coming out of two is, that we glory in God, right? But in 3, He says, "*not only that, but we also glory in tribulations.*" Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Glory, glory in tribulations. Hallelujah for tribulations. Praise the Lord for tribulations. Now, you know how sane that would make you sound to the world. Oh, tribulations. I just love tribulations. Hmm.

Well, first of all, understand what tribulation means. It means trouble. It means trial. It means problems. We glory in those, we glory in difficulties. It's what the scripture says. Can we actually give God praise and say glory to God when trials come? Well, what's that built on? Because we have to read here. "*Knowing that tribulations produce perseverance.*" the reason we can glory in our tribulations is because we know a powerful secret. We not, when I say no, I mean we have it. It's ours. And it's a powerful secret. Now, that secret has five parts to it. five parts. Every Christian should know this powerful secret. It's right here. Five parts.

First of all, this is what it says. *“We glory in tribulations. Knowing that tribulations produce perseverance.”* What's that saying? Well, it's saying, **number one**, that tribulations send us to God for help. That's what they do.

Now, you can go along in life and not have any problems and unfortunately, I know that ideally every child of God ought to be praying without ceasing, meditating on the word, rejoicing in the Lord, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody in their heart to the Lord. I know they should be walking along with Jesus as though he were right there beside them on the right hand, the left hand, before them and behind them, under them and over them. However, God is not fooled. God knows you. God knows you. And he knows, though that is what you should experience every minute and every day, he knows that probably, I shouldn't say probably, he knows that isn't your experience. Hmm. So, he sends troubles. Because troubles send you to God for help. Now, if you're not going there praying and praising and rejoicing, you're going to go there when you're in enough trouble. how do I know that? That's the way the human heart is.

I've given you this wonderful verse before. I want to turn you there again. Hebrews 4:16, last verse of that chapter. Precious, precious verse. Tells you that we have a place to go in a time of trouble. this is what it says. Remember this.

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

You want help in your time of trouble? That's what need is. Trouble. Pain. Tribulation. God says, well, here. Come to the throne of grace. Come to my throne. Instead of just saying my throne, he calls it something. He calls it the throne of grace. It's called the throne of grace because that's where you get grace to help in time of need, in time of trouble. You get it from the throne of grace. You get it from God. And if it takes trouble to bring you to your spiritual knees, then God's going to let trouble come. and he will bring you to the throne of grace so that he can show you how much he loves you. Did you ever think about it that way? God wants you to know how much he loves you.

Now, I had a friend some years back, he says, you know, the Lord loves me a whole lot. He shows it to me all the time. he sends more trouble into my life than you can know. Well, **his powerful secret is, number one**, tribulation sends you to the throne of grace. And that's where you get grace to help in time of need. How do you get it? By requests. By prayer. You know, I'll show you the verse in Philippians 4.

Precious verse. Verse 6. Philippians 4:6. *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;”*

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer, see? Everything by prayer. Don't deal with your problems according to anxiety. Have a problem. Oh, my tire is losing air. Oh, what can I do about that? Well, one thing you can do about it is pray. Now, prayer may not put air in your tire. I want to tell you, sometimes God works a miracle. He does that. But for the most part, I would want you to know that's not what's going to happen. God has another way of dealing with the problem. The first thing he has to do

is take away your anxiety about it. The one who can help you with the problem is on the job when you call on him. He's there to help in time of need. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication. Seek him with strong request, with thanksgiving. Thank you, Lord, that you're going to get me out of this problem with my low tire. I don't know how you're going to do it. Oh, I've got to tell you.

I took Pastor Palmer¹ with me one time. This was years ago when we were part of the narrow organization. Some of you may not know what that is. But, you know, we were members with them for a long time. And churches got to go down to Galesburg and get supplies for the church. We had to give them away. We couldn't sell them. We gave them away. We got some strange, strange things. I just don't need to tell you. We got strange things sometimes. But we gave them away. And you never knew. You come to Fellowship Bible Church and worship Sunday morning, you never knew what you're going to go home with. I remember one time a bunch of fellas came and we gave away fishing lures. that's what you got for coming to church that morning. You got fishing lures. And we got some stuff that was, I know it was smelly because some of the packages cracked open, but it was some kind of fish oily stuff that smelled terrible. And they said, if you put this on your lure, it will just draw the fish like magnets. Oh, I can tell you, it made its way to the garbage quickly because it really was powerful stuff.

Anyway, we went down there, brother Palmer and I, and we didn't have a truck in those days. And so the lady that is the lady who does our ordering for our food pantry, Betsy, her husband's name is Adam Burnett. Adam at that time had a truck that somebody gave him. And it was a rental truck that had well seen its days for being rented to anybody. And its name on the side was Brand X. It was Brand X Rental. Okay? And I tell you, it was, it was, it took the grace of God to get that thing down the highway. It really did. Anyway, we were going down the highway with this thing. We got our truck loaded up with stuff from there. And we were on our way back from Galesburg. We were off 20 miles maybe from Galesburg, out in the middle of farming territory. We weren't within 10 miles of a town. And the tire on the right rear decided to go flat. Okay. Well, there wasn't a house. there really wasn't a house within a half a mile of where we were. I mean, we could look over the cornfields and see. Beyond the cornfields, there was one house. And I remember the season. The corn was fully grown. It wasn't drying yet, but it was still green. But it was totally, you know, fully mature. So it must have been like August or something like that. I don't know. And we looked and there was this house way way, way, way off there. And we looked at one another and said, well, let's take the jack and let's pry this thing up and see if we can put the spare tire on. Because it didn't look like we were going to get any help.

So there was a jack and we did put it underneath the back end of this truck. And we started pumping and pumping and pumping. And the jack went up. And it went up just wonderfully. And it just kept going up. and we noticed that the jack was going up, but the truck wasn't going up. And we looked and we said, you know, I think the jack has just poked through the frame of the truck. It was that rusty. And we just went right up through the, didn't, didn't, phase that jack up at all. It just went right up through the truck frame. And we said, well, we're not going to get this thing raised up with a jack.

¹ Pastor Gil Palmer of Lockport Baptist Church. A long time friend of Pastor Rains.

And that's all we had. We said, well, we better pray. We should have prayed before that, you see. But anyway, we prayed and we said, Lord, we're out in the middle of who knows where. We don't have any help. What we have won't work. Please help us. And so we looked at that house way off there and he, Brother Gil looked at me and I looked at him and I said, well, one of us is going to have to go. I said, do you want to flip a coin? He said, no, I'll go. And I, you know, I just humbly accepted that. And off he went. Down through the corner. He had to crawl over a fence, to get into the cornfield. He went through the cornfield to get over to that house. And I was there, I'm sure, 45 minutes waiting for some word of whatever was going on. But what happened was he got to this farmer's house and he told him our plight and this fellow was so gracious. He was an angel from the Lord. He was so gracious. I couldn't see what was going on because of the corn all over the place. but what was going on was he had one of these big floor jacks. You know, I call them floor jacks. It had wheels on it and everything.

And he got that, put it in his pickup, and he was driving around. He had to drive four miles. We could see his house, but he had to drive four miles to get to an exit somewhere and to come down and down back to the truck. He got back to the truck. He had a big piece of lumber that he was going to put on top of his jack. He knew he could jack this up without going through the frame. This fellow, he didn't even need us. He said, oh, I've got it. He put that under there. He jacked the truck up. He got the wheel off, left the thing, you know, on the jack. He said, I'll be back. I know somebody who will take care of this flat tire for you. And off he went, drove like ten miles to get another exit to go around and get to some place and I don't even know where he went. He got the tire fixed. He brought it back. We were sitting there for an hour, you know, what? Praising the Lord, not being anxious, praising the Lord that it was taken care of.

We didn't know what in the world was going on, but we knew that the Lord was taking care of it. He brought the tire back. He put the tire on. We said, how can we thank you? What do we owe you? He says, nothing. I said, please let us pay you. No, he said, I don't want any pay. He said, I did this for the Lord. And I thought, this man knows the Lord. The Lord sent one of his children to do this very gracious thing for us. And he didn't know that we were pastors. He didn't even know who we were. And then we just overflowed to him our thanks to the Lord and who we were. And we rejoiced there. And we had a little prayer session. And he went on his way.

He said, you know, you fellows may think that you received a great blessing today. And maybe in your own way you did. He said, but you don't understand how great a blessing this has been to me to be used by God for two of his children. I needed this today, he said. And you have been there to help God provide it. Isn't it marvelous the ways God works? Flat tire. Very common. But he worked things for his own glory for eternity out of it. Because we trusted him.

But I'm going to tell you why we truly trusted God without any reservations. It was because he put us in a place where that's the only thing we could do. I bet if we'd had that flat tire right next to a gas station, we would have gone in before we prayed. I'm sorry. I wish I could say no, no, no, no, no. But that's just the way we live, you know. And God says don't live that way. Come to me first. Don't be anxious for anything. Come to me first. I've given you this wonderful secret. that when you have troubles, you can come to the throne of grace and find grace to help in time of need. Use it. Wonderful secret. We don't use it enough, do we? we ought to use it always.

You know, when God does that for us, and I want to go back to Philippians. I've got it in order to show you this. I want to say it right from the scriptures Philippians 4, 6, 7 again. 4, 6, and 7.

“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Because in verse 7, he says this, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Now, that's not the peace with God that I was talking to for the last couple of weeks, you know, peace with God. No, no, no, please read this very carefully. This is the peace of God. You don't always have this. You only have this when you come to the throne of grace and you receive grace to help in time of need, when you open your heart to God and you come to him in trust and beyond your understanding he supplies peace with him. It guards your heart and your mind. God makes a difference between your heart and your mind. Your heart refers to your spirit, your human spirit, that part of you that communicates with God and your mind. Your mind is your reasoning place and you can use it to get yourself all troubled. You use logic and all that. You get yourself all wound up and all excited and all concerned and anxious.

Well, your mind has to be also kept. God has a work to do in your spirit and in your mind to guard them, to guard them through Christ Jesus. and you want to know how he does that because the scriptures tell you that he does it through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the peace of God to you. It brings it. The Holy Spirit brings it to your heart. And he does that when you completely trust in him, trust in the Lord, your Savior, trust in him to bring you through your trial. Where's that?

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

I'll show you. 1 Corinthians 10.13. I know you say, well, I've memorized that verse. You ought to. 1 Corinthians 10.13. I just want to tie together for you verses that you may know, but you just don't realize how they come together. Here's 1 Corinthians 10.13. Now, all things, did you see the word all? It doesn't leave anything out. Now, all things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition. It is 1 Corinthians. It is 10.

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

I'm reading from verse 11, though. I'm coming up to verse 13. all things that happened to the Jews in the Old Testament were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. That's us. We're caught up in the ends of the ages.

13:12 *“therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

If you think you're going to get through your daily life, by your strength, and that you don't need God, and you can stand on your own, you're okay, you better watch out, you better take heed, because you're going to fall. You're going to find out this life has troubles and problems in it, trials, difficulties, that you cannot stand against. That's where you are in verse 13. *"No temptation, no trial, no difficulty, no problem has overtaken you, except such as is common to man."* You, in one way, are not special, and you ought to be glad for that. You are very special before God, but in one way, you're not. In one way, you have to understand, you have problems, but there aren't any problems that you can have that other people don't have.

Oh, nobody's had the problems I have. Yes, they have. Nobody's been as hungry as I am. Oh, yes, they have. nobody's hurt the way I hurt. Nobody's had the pain I have. Nobody's had the sorrow that I've had. Oh, yes, they have. Yes, they have. They're common to man. You're not special. Oh, I've got some special problems. Nobody in the whole creation has ever had the weight of problems and the kind of problems that I have. You're wrong. And you ought to be glad for that. That what you have to go through, other people have had to go through.

I don't care how terrible it is. Don't try to set yourself apart to be so special in the way you suffer that there certainly can't be any help for you. Thank God we aren't special that way. that all troubles that anybody can ever have God has an answer for. God can help you deal with them. It's not beyond what God not only can do but he's already done it many, many, many times for others. There have no temptation overtaken you except as such as is common to man. but God is faithful.

Can you rest on God to be unchanging? To keep his word? To not lie to you? To do what he's promised to do? That's all caught up in that word faithful. is God really faithful? Does he keep his promises? Or does he overstate things? Now, you would never overstate anything, would you? You would look so good this morning. I've never seen anybody look as good as you do this morning. Why, these potatoes are the best tasting potatoes I have ever tasted. my shoes fit better than any shoes in the whole world. This is the most beautiful day on the face of the earth. My children are the most wonderful children there have ever been. Nobody has seen children like my children. You don't overstate things, do you?

Does God do that? Does God give you promises that are overstated? Or does he remain faithful to the last jot and tittle? To the last breath? *"But God who is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you're able."* Now, that's where you're special. you're not like everybody else. In fact, it's quite possible that there has never been anybody like you. And for that we can be thankful. Nonetheless, you are special in that regard. That, put it this way, you have your limits. I remember one time I was sitting in a dentist chair. And the purpose of my being there was I was going to get an implanted tooth. Okay? An implanted tooth is quite a procedure. They take the old one out and then they go down in there and they decide they're going to put a little plug in there, they're going to screw a little post down in there. And after that all heals and they come back and they put an artificial tooth on top of that little plug. And anyway, they were going to let a student do this. Okay? But the main fellow over the department was right there to watch every step of the way. I was at the University of

Illinois Dental School and they do that.² They closely monitor what those students do. Well, first thing was they had to kind of numb the area. And so he tried. He gave me one shot, two shots, five shots, six shots, eight shots. He said, can you feel that? I said, yes, I can. They had to call in a doctor who was a specialist on nerves and their patterns and everything. they gave me over 12 or 13, 14 shots of that stuff until I was starting to feel dizzy from it. Finally, they decided it was okay. They could now do their cutting. And they went in and the student went in and he started doing some cutting and cutting that, I know you're loving this, cutting the gum away. and he went down to the bone and he said, oh, I said, the professor, he said, I don't think there's enough bone down here to do this. And they looked and sure enough, there wasn't. He said, we're going to have to put a bone graft in here, which they proceeded to do for the next period of time. You know, I was in that chair for almost six hours. And I got to the place where I had cold sweat coming down my forehead and dripping off my fingertips. And I know I was probably white as a sheet. And the one lead doctor said, are you okay, sir? I said, yeah, I'm fine. Just keep going, keep going, keep going. And finally I got out of there.

He says, just come back in about two months and we'll continue the procedure, which they did. king. And as I left, I thought, I know there are a lot of people that couldn't have sat there for six hours and told them to keep going. I know that. I know my level of pain and endurance, my level of enduring pain is much higher than a lot of people. I can take, you know, I can take a lot of pain and not pass out. although that day I was pretty close to it. And I didn't do it, though. I didn't pass out. But I know there are a lot of people that couldn't do that. Maybe you're one like that. Maybe about 30 minutes into the procedure, you've had it for today. Or an hour, or two hours, or three hours, or whatever. you're saying, that's my limit. I'm done. You're different.

And so God says he won't allow anything to come into your life beyond what you are able to bear. He will with the trial also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it. He has grace there for you if you'll call on him for it to get you through whatever it is you're dealing with. So he's not going to allow you to have to face something you can't deal with. We have a lot of those in our congregation who have lost their mate. and I'm going to tell you if you want to see somebody just drained and broken it's somebody who has lost the love of their life. Now you go talk to these people. In fact sometimes they need to talk to one another to encourage one another because you see other people have had that happen and God has gotten them through it and you might want to be encouraged that God brings those through it who come to him for the grace to help in time of need.

And listen, if you can go through that, you can go through anything. Your trials are not different from what other people have gone through, but you are different and your limits are definite. Your specific life is special, God will always provide what you need for your problem if you know there was a catch didn't you? If you are doing what Hebrews 4.16 says you have to do and that's by faith go to the throne of grace and get grace to help in the time of need. God will provide all you need. You know those trips

² Pastor Rains did his dental work up at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Sometimes when he describes these procedures it sounded worse than the Spanish inquisition in the Middle Ages. Reeves

to the throne of grace **involve faith**. That's what's going on. You're trusting God for his working to give you whatever you need to go through the problem that you're facing. And there's a name for going to the throne of grace to get the grace to help you in time of need. There's a name for doing that over and over and over again. You go to God to get the grace you need. You go to God to get the grace you need. There's a name for that. **It's called perseverance**. Perseverance. Romans 5.3 Not only this, but we also *“glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.”* That's what it is. And as you do this, you keep going to God for His grace, your spiritual nature, your spiritual character is brought more and more to maturity. You grow. It's called growing in grace.

Because you keep drawn on this grace, you see, you're growing. You grow a little bit in grace every time you do this. And that's called perseverance. so your spiritual character matures. In other words, you become more like Christ. That's 2 Corinthians 3.18.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

You become more like Christ. Because the Holy Spirit of God changes you step by step, step by step, into the same image, into the image of Christ. That's the job of the Holy Spirit. We develop an attitude of looking at things God has promised. We look at those things that God has promised as the only things that are solid, the only things that are real, the only things that you can really count on, the only things that can be trusted. And you not only for today, but you look out into the future. that's all I can really trust in for the future is what God has promised.

You know what God calls that? It's right here in verse 4, **hope**. *“Perseverance produces proven character and character produces hope.”* That's looking out there and seeing what God has promised and knowing that that stuff is real. that's your hope. And that's how you get a hold of it. By trusting him for things right now, every day, as you go along. Besides all this, there's one thing that every believer has that proves that God is at work in him. That we belong to him. That all he promises is real for us.

There's one thing that we all have that makes that all real for us and that is the person of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1.13,

*“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**”*

you're sealed with the Spirit. Romans 8:10,

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

if you don't have the Spirit, you don't belong to him. You've got to have the Spirit or you're not a Christian. It's got to be there.

Romans 8:16 *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”*

It's the Holy Spirit that helps you recognize that God is your Father. He's right there on the job to help you have the confidence inwardly that God is your Father. The Holy Spirit is the one that teaches you, the one that leads you. In fact, the Scripture says, “only those that are led by the Spirit are the sons of God.”

Ro. 8:14 *“or as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”*

well, obviously, you know, the Holy Spirit leads you and that means you have the Holy Spirit and if the Holy Spirit is leading you, you belong to God. He leads you according to his word, not according to your emotions, not according to some screwball counsel you may get from people or who knows from where, from Him by the word of God. He will lead you and those that are led by Him are his children. you're sealed with him, you're kept by him. In fact, you know, Ephesians 1:13, 14

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

says he'll keep you until Jesus Christ comes to take you for himself. That's his job. He will not let you go. There isn't anything that can separate you from the love of God. Read it, Romans 8, 28, 28 and 29, 38 and 39, I'm sorry, 38 and 39.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”³

Read it, nothing can separate you from the love of God. no demon, not Satan himself, no power on this earth, or in heaven can separate you from the love of God. The Holy Spirit seals you. The Holy Spirit is God. He seals you and keeps you until Jesus comes and claims you. He lets you know every step of the way that he's leading, that you're his child. And so here's the plea. Here's the plea. Galatians 5:25 gives it to you very clearly.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

One simple little statement. “If we live in the Spirit,” and that's the only way you can be a Christian is that you're alive in the Holy Spirit. you have the Holy Spirit in you. You

³ Reeves in my editing of the notes I set off quotes of the Bible from The NKJV so that you could read the scriptures. The paragraph divisions are my editing. The transcription comes in one block of text.

have the life of God in you. Here's the plea. Let us, the key word for that is an appeal, is the word let. Let us, "let us also walk in the Spirit." That does not happen automatically. It's an appeal from the heart of God. Won't you let him by His Spirit take you along your life every step of the way in your time of need, in your time of praise. Let him have his way.

You don't know what wonderful things he has for you when you have a flat tire. You just don't know what wonderful things he's already worked out. if you will trust him, you'll get the blessing of what he has for you.

Father, thank you for your grace and mercy. How precious you are to us. Your faithfulness is unending. The Holy Spirit is the proof of your love. Thank you that your promises will be fulfilled without even one of them failing. In Jesus' name, amen. Thank you.