



Part 2: In the Tough Stuff

November 17 & 18, 2018

Pastor Grant Fishbook

Will it float?

An Egg	Yes / No
Gallon of Milk	Yes / No
Can of Spam	Yes / No
Can of Pepsi	Yes / No
Can of Diet Pepsi	Yes / No

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is confident assurance (verses 1-2)

Hope is built through a painful process (verses 3-4)

Suffering --> Perseverance --> Character Development --> Hope

Hope is an outcome of our spiritual formation (verse 5)

Hope is rooted in the eternal, not the temporary

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Hope and faith are built together

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. – Hebrews 11:1

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. – Galatians 5:5
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love. – 1 Corinthians 13:13

Through the suffering of Jesus, eternal hope was built for you and me.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. – Romans 5:6

Next Steps

The CTK Blessing is one of the ways we bring hope to people in our church, our community partners, and the people our partners serve. You can participate in The Blessing through financial giving or by serving in a variety of ways The Blessing makes possible.

If you'd like to give, use the green envelope in today's program for cash or checks, or choose Blessing when you give online. If you'd like to serve, pick up a copy of the CTK Blessing Annual Report in the Commons and see the back page for opportunities and contact information.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What did you do on Friday? Why?
- 2) Where did you see hope this past week?
- 3) Have someone read Romans 5:1-6 out loud. How do you “glory in your suffering”? Have you seen this to be true or false in your life?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 again. Have you ever met anyone who is outwardly wasting away but inwardly being renewed day by day? What did they teach you about life?
- 5) How are faith, hope and love remaining in your life this week?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?