

Romans 5:1-11 (NIV)

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And 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.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **11** Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-11 (HCSB)

Faith Triumphs

5 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace^[a] with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² We have also obtained access through Him by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, **4** endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. **5** This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Those Declared Righteous Are Reconciled

6 For while we were still helpless, at the appointed moment, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. **8** But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us! **9** Much more then, since we have now been declared righteous by His blood, we will be saved through Him from wrath. **10** For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life! **11** And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have now received this reconciliation through Him.

Holman Christian Standard Bible - Study Bible¹

Romans 5:1-11

5:1 Commentators differ over whether chapter 5 belongs thematically to the first major section of Romans or to the Christian life section, chapters 6 through 8. It has connections to both. Paul in **5:1-11** uses "we" and "us" as he explains the benefits that those who are justified possess. Justification is just one of many ways of speaking about salvation. In this division, Paul showed how justification involves reconciliation. Justification speaks to our sound legal status before God while reconciliation describes our repaired relationship to God in more personal terms. We were at war with God, relationally alienated from Him, but He reconciled us by His Son (**v. 10**). **We have peace** in some manuscripts can be read as "let us grasp the fact that we have peace." This peace is an objective, settled fact because Jesus has accomplished it once and for all.

5:2 Access to God's grace is the privilege of all believers. We have the freedom to enter His presence at all times. His golden scepter is always extended (cp. **Est 4:11-5:2**).

charis

<i>Greek Pronunciation</i>	[KAH rihs]
<i>HCSB Translation</i>	grace
<i>Uses in Romans</i>	24
<i>Uses in the NT</i>	155
<i>Focus passage</i>	Romans 5:2

The Greek noun *charis* refers to an unmerited favorable disposition toward someone or something. In the NT, *charis* is commonly used in relation to salvation, especially in Paul's writings. Paul used *charis* to explain that salvation comes from God's own choice to show favor in redeeming lost persons through faith in Christ (**Rm 5:1**; **Eph 2:8-9**; **2Tim 1:9**). However, God's *undeserved favor* is not toward those who have done nothing offensive; rather, God shows *grace* toward those who have sinned against Him and are actually His enemies.

In **Romans 5**, Paul explained that peace with God is an act of God's *grace* (**vv. 1-2**). He reminded believers that at one time they were God's enemies (**v. 10**; see **Eph 2:1-16**; **Col 1:21-22**). Therefore, a better NT definition of *charis* would be *unmerited favor toward an enemy*—*grace* toward one who has forfeited any claim on God's favor because of sin and who deserves the opposite—God's judgment (**5:9**).

5:9 No debt of **wrath** remains for those who **have now been declared righteous** through faith in Christ.

5:10-11 If by the death of Christ **we were reconciled to God**, how much surer must the good news of salvation be now that He has risen and lives forevermore!

1. Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Romans 5".

NLT Life Application Study Bible²

Romans 5:1-11

5:1 We are now at peace *with God*, which may differ from peaceful feelings such as calmness and tranquility. Peace with God means that we have been reconciled with him. There is no more hostility between us, no sin blocking our relationship with him. Peace with God is possible only because Jesus paid the price for our sins through his death on the cross.

5:1-5 These verses introduce a section that contains some difficult concepts. To understand the next four chapters, it helps to keep in mind the two-sided reality of the Christian life. On the one hand, we are complete in Christ (our acceptance with him is secure). On the other hand, we are growing in Christ (we are becoming more and more like him). At one and the same time we have the status of kings and the duties of slaves. We feel both the presence of Christ and the pressure of sin. We enjoy the peace that comes from being made right with God, but we still face daily problems that often help us grow. If we remember these two sides of the Christian life, we will not grow discouraged as we face temptations and problems. Instead, we will learn to depend on the power available to us from Christ, who lives in us by the Holy Spirit.

5:2 Paul states that, as believers, we now have entered into a place of undeserved privilege. Not only has God declared us not guilty; he has drawn us close to himself. Instead of being enemies, we have become his friends—in fact, his own children ([John 15:15](#); [Galatians 4:5](#)).

5:3, 4 For first-century Christians, suffering was the rule rather than the exception. Paul tells us that in the future we will *become*, but until then we must *overcome*. This means we will experience difficulties that help us grow. We rejoice in suffering, not because we like pain or deny its tragedy, but because we know God is using life's difficulties and Satan's attacks to build our character. The problems that we run into will develop our perseverance—which in turn will strengthen our character, deepen our trust in God, and give us greater confidence about the future. You probably find your patience tested in some way every day. Thank God for those opportunities to grow, and deal with them in his strength (see also [James 1:2-4](#); [1 Peter 1:6, 7](#)).

5:5, 6 All three members of the Trinity are involved in salvation. The Father loved us so much that he sent his Son to bridge the gap between us ([John 3:16](#)). The Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to fill our life with love and to enable us to live by his power ([Acts 1:8](#)). With all this loving care, how can we do less than serve him completely!

5:6 We were weak and helpless because we could do nothing on our own to save ourselves. Someone had to come and rescue us. Christ came at exactly the right time in history—according to God's own schedule. God controls all history, and he controlled the timing, method, and events surrounding Jesus' death.

5:8 *While we were still sinners*—these are amazing words. God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, not because we were good enough, but just because he loved us. Whenever you feel uncertain about God's love for you, remember that he loved you even before you turned to him.

5:9, 10 The love that caused Christ to die is the same love that sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us every day. The power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power that saved you and is available to you in your daily life. Be assured that, having begun a life with Christ, you have a reserve of power and love to call on each day for help to meet every challenge or trial. You can pray for God's power and love as you need it.

5:11 God is holy, and he will not be associated with sin. All people are sinful and so they are separated from God. In addition, all sin deserves punishment. Instead of punishing us with the death we deserve, however, Christ took our sins upon himself and took our punishment by dying on the cross. Now we can rejoice in God. Through faith in Christ's work, we become close to God (friends) rather than being enemies and outcasts.

What We Have As God's Children	
<i>What we have as Adam's children</i>	<i>What we have as God's children</i>
Ruin 5:9	Rescue 5:8
Sin 5:12 , 15 , 21	Righteousness 5:18
Death 5:12 , 16 , 21	Eternal life 5:17 , 21
Separation from God 5:18	Relationship with God 5:11 , 19
Disobedience 5:12 , 19	Obedience 5:19
Judgment 5:18	Deliverance 5:10 , 11
Law 5:20	Grace 5:20

Life Essentials Study Bible³

A Principle to Live By Peace with God

from Romans 5:1-11

When we are made righteous by faith, we are to have the full assurance of our salvation, now and eternally.

Paul used the word “therefore” to connect what he had taught about being made righteous by faith and what happens the moment we are saved. As believers, “we have peace with God” ([v. 1](#)). We are no longer enemies of God because of our sin. We have been reconciled to our eternal Creator, and nothing can “separate us from the love of God.” (See Rm #16: Security in Christ, [p. 1546](#).) Our eternal salvation is secure enabling us to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God” ([5:2](#)). Our eternal destiny has been “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit” ([Eph 1:13-14](#)).

Having this security in Christ also enables us to experience God’s peace in the midst of difficult circumstances. Thus Paul wrote to the Philippians,

Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ([Php 4:6-7](#))

Reflection and Response

What is the difference between peace with God and the peace of God?

3. Gene Getz, *Life Essentials Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2011), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1540.