

SALEM HEIGHTS

THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

HOPE IS THE EAGER ANTICIPATION AND CONFIDENT EXPECTATION
OF A FUTURE GUARANTEED BY GOD.

Faith Triumphs! I don't know about you, but when I think about triumph or winning, I naturally think in terms of physical strength and resources. But in this section of verses, Paul reminds us that our natural abilities are unable to free us from the spiritual burden and penalty of our sinful choices. Paul describes us all as helpless.

Last week, our passage highlighted that we all are like sheep that have gone astray. Did you know that if a sheep is knocked on its back, it is unable to get back up on its own? It's true. That is a helpless position to be in. And it perfectly illustrates what it means to be helpless. When we sin, we are unable to do enough good works to free us from the penalty of that sin and its control. But I have some good news. God has not left us in this helpless state. He has graciously offered us His strength and resources. Through Christ's death, burial and resurrection, the strength and resources needed to overcome the power and penalty of sin are available to all who believe.

So, the next time you feel helpless, return to this section of verses and be reminded that "while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly." He is a very present help in our time of need. Stop struggling to get back up on your own. Look to the Good Shepherd who is able to set you back up and lead you back to green pastures.— Pastor Pete

Romans 5:1-11

Faith Triumphs

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. ⁵This 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.

The Justified Are Reconciled

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time, 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 How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we 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 boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.

1. What do you see about hope in this passage?
2. What does it teach us about God?
3. What does it teach us about man?
4. What should we do in light of this passage?