

Not Only That, We Boast!

Paul & Ruth BLESS & SEND *Offering*

I. 5 Statements – Awake, Arise, Count it all joy, No eye has seen, the eyes of the Lord. [SLIDE 1]

Is. 51:17 **Wake** yourself, **wake** yourself, **stand up**, O Jerusalem,

II. Arise and Shine [SLIDE 2]

Is. 60:1 **Arise**, (Stand and become light) shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. [SLIDE 3]

3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Standing AND Shining

Rom. 5:1 **Therefore**, since we have been **justified** *by faith*, we have **peace with God** *through* our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 *through HIM*

we have **OBTAINED** access *by faith* into

this grace **IN** which **WE STAND!** [SLIDE 4]

AND We **REJOICE** (boast) [SLIDE 5]

in **HOPE** of the **Glory of God!** [SLIDE 6]

III. The Journey to Joy

Jas 1:2 **Count** it **all** joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ... [SLIDE 7]

A. Govern Our Hearts *toward* Joy

Rom 5:3 Not only that, but we **rejoice** in our **sufferings**, *knowing* that **suffering produces** endurance, [S 8...]

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.

B. Why Boasting? Purpose —> Transformation

Rom 5:3 Not only *that**, but we **rejoice** in our sufferings, *knowing* *that* suffering **produces** ENDURANCE, [S 9...]

Rejoice not only in future glory but in **present** trials and **sufferings**, because they **produce transformation** that makes us more like Christ.

Do we endure evils as stoically as possible? No! Not simply to be endured, but to be gloried in!

Sufferings are real hardships. No one likes these. BUT WHEN **counted** as challenges to be overcome, they become ways of opening up new possibilities.

Produces – *accomplish, bring about, prepare, cultivate*

Endurance — *persistence, resilience* – an active, manly fortitude. It is used of the soldier who, in the thick of a hard battle, gives as much as he gets; he is not dismayed by the blows he receives, but fights on to the end. Made even stronger.

C. Why the Boasting? Development of Hope

4 and **endurance produces** character, and **character produces** **hope**, [S 10...]

Character is used of metal which has been passed through the fire, purified. Used like the word *sterling*. When affliction is met with fortitude, out of the battle we emerge stronger, purer, better and nearer to God.

[S 11...]

Suffering can actually lead to “hope.” Just as resistance to a muscle strengthens it, so challenges to our hope can strengthen it.

D. Why Boasting? Holy Spirit Outpouring of Love

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. [S 12...]

NOT LOVE tiny measures, but oceanic in volume!

God “has poured” (*ekcheo*) AGAPE into our hearts. Describes the “pouring out” of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, who communicates God’s love to us!

LOOK AT THIS:

Suffering —> Endurance —> Character —> Hope —> LOVE
POURED OUT

Rom 8:28 And we know that *for those who love God* all things work together for good, for those who are **called** according to **his purpose**. [S 13...]

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE God

ALL THINGS —> In Catastrophes & Calamities *yet In God* — Our lives resiliently unfold as a message of HOPE *INDELIBLY WRITTEN* by GRACE!

Our Father brings GLADNESS out of SADNESS

He engineers BLESSINGS out of BLUNDERS.

In His darkroom NEGATIVES become POSITIVES,

He is the SITUATION REVERSAL EXPERT!

Dt 23:5 But the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the Lord your **God turned the curse into a blessing** for you, **because** the Lord your **God loved you.**

This All-inclusive; all-powerful, word is always available. Not a platitude, but a **divine promise** with No Expiration Date.

UNFAILING ALL-ENCOMPASSING NO EXCEPTIONS

Applies to —> EVERY tragedy, trial, teardrop, burden, setback, delay

LIVE IN LOVE!

IV. His Plans are Better Than We Expect. [S 14...]

Acts 1:6 [A little later], they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time **restore the kingdom** to Israel?”

Their hopes were too small...counting the OMER

7 ...not for you to know ... the Father... [put in] his own authority.

8 But **you** will **receive power** when the **Holy Spirit** has **come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” [S 15...]

You (3x) Receive Power [S 16...]

when Holy Spirit HAS come upon [S 17...]

Will Be [S 18...]

MY Witnesses [S 19...]

IN Je, all Ju, Sam & TO end of the earth

Luke 1:35 (ESV) ... “The **Holy Spirit will come upon you,** and the **power** of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore

Luke 11:20 ... then the kingdom of God has **come upon you**. 21 When a **strong man**, fully armed, guards his... palace, his goods are safe; 22 but when one stronger than he **attacks** him and **overcomes** him, he **takes away** his armor ... and **divides** his spoil.

Luke 21:26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of **what is coming on the world**. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 ... see the Son of Man coming ... with power and great glory. 28 ...begin to take place, **straighten up** and **raise your heads**, because your **redemption** is drawing near.”

Commission to Hope Therapy!

Rom 15:13 NIV May the **God of HOPE** fill (ἡ πληρω- fill to overflow, pervade with influence, fully possess) **you** with **all joy** and **peace** as you trust in him [in believing], **so that you may overflow** (ἡ περισσεύω - over and above, abound) **with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit – Come and fill us