

## We Glory in Tribulations

Romans 5:3-5

- 3 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*  
4 *And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*  
5 *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

### REVIEW

**Not only so**: a bold additional assertion. Yes Rom. 5:1, yes Rom. 5:2, and yes still more in Rom. 5:3-5!

**Glory**: *kauchōmetha* – same word translated “rejoice” in the previous verse. We rejoice in the hope of glory. We rejoice in tribulations. See Acts 5:41. This being the hardest point to digest, Paul elaborates.

**Tribulations**: from Latin *tribulo*, to thrash, to beat; see “tribulum” (a threshing sledge). By extension: severe affliction; distresses of life; vexations. And they *are* a reality: “In this world ye shall have tribulations.” (John 16:33) Examples:

1. **Physical trials** – broken limbs, amputations, burns, pain in the joints, hormonal imbalances, pinched nerves, headaches, dizziness, nausea, allergies, infections, diseases, loss of sight/speech/hearing/taste/touch, homeliness, weight gain, weight loss, aging, loss of hair, paralysis, ....
2. **Emotional trials** – rejection, intimidation, insecurity, mockery, betrayal, loathing, alienation, loneliness, loss of loved ones, loss of possessions, ....
3. **Financial trials** – theft, collapse of investments, loss of job, breakdowns, unplanned expenditures, inflation, medical expenses, loss of food and shelter, ....
4. **Legal trials** – being investigated, charged, prosecuted, wrongly represented, publicly shamed, sentenced, impoverished, imprisoned, executed, ....
5. **Spiritual trials** – demonic harassment, agonizing prayer, doctrinal contention, wrestling, enmity, disputes, ....
6. **Biblical examples** – waiting 7 years for a wife then given the wrong one; being hated and sold into slavery by your own brothers; having people you're leading so angry they may stone you; losing your husband and both sons-in-law in a foreign land; being wrongfully charged with impropriety with your boss's wife; being thrown into a filthy cistern; having your eyes gouged out; being forced into a harem of a pagan king; having one of your closest confidantes turn against you; having to share a husband and be barren while the other wife is fruitful; having a demon-possessed child throwing himself into the fire; being a social outcast due to leprosy; having an issue of blood for 12 years; finding yourself with child outside of marriage; seeing your son mocked, tortured, and killed; .... or undergoing the challenges Paul lists in II Cor. 11:23-30.

**Knowing** – *oida*. Thorough knowledge. This verb is used to describe, for example, God's knowledge of us. Note: rejoicing through tribulations is connected to *knowledge*. There are many truths believers would find profit in knowing. We are to know . . .

1. We are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?” (Rom. 6:3)

2. We are slaves to whom we actually obey.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom. 6:16)

3. A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” (I Cor. 5:6)

4. We shall judge angels.

“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (I Cor. 6:3)

5. Our bodies are the temples of God.

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?” (I Cor. 6:19)

6. We run in a race to win.

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.” (I Cor. 9:24)

7. The hope of His calling

8. The riches of the glory of His grace

9. The exceeding greatness of His power

“That ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe.”  
(Eph. 1:18-19)

10. The love of Christ

“Comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”  
(Eph. 3:18-19)

11. How to behave in the house of God

“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (I Tim. 3:15)

12. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

