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The Perfecting of Justification

5: 3-5

The perfecting of justification DIG: In what way are we to “boast in our troubles?” What can our troubles in this life produce if we look at them in the right way? How do our trials compare to a piece of metal in a refiner’s fire? How are our troubles, hope, and God’s love interrelated? What is the proof, the down payment, of our final redemption?

REFLECT: Are you troubled today? Do you feel discouraged? Do you feel like all is lost? It is important to know that even our trials have a purpose in Messiah. When have you come out of a trial to see a blessing from the Lord? What do unbelievers turn to when trials come their way? When have you experienced God’s love being “poured out?” Who can you help?

Troubles produce endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and this hope does not let us down.



Believers can enjoy **peace** with ADONAI (to see link click [Bh](#) - The Blessing of **Justification**) that has already been achieved, and the glorious future in **God’s** presence that awaits us. But how should we react to the **troubles** and tribulations of this life? **James** said it this way: **Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of trials; for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance (James 1:2-3).** This is more than a mere Stoic endurance of our **troubles**. **Paul** adds another benefit here that may seem strange when we first hear of it. We are to **boast in our**

troubles (5:3a). Notice that he does not say we are to **boast at our troubles**. We don't like **troubles**, and we shouldn't. What **Paul** is saying, however, is that now our **troubles** have meaning and purpose. Our **troubles** are leading us somewhere.¹¹³

*Dear Loving Heavenly **Father**, **You** are the perfect **Father!** **You** graciously planned not only to rescue and save all who will come to **You** in **love**, but **You** also plan for the eternal joy of rewards for **Your children (First Corinthians 3:12-14)**. As the sports coach gives his players hard exercises to strengthen them so that they win the game - so you plan circumstances that will strengthen **Your** children's faith and bring them eternal rewards. Strength building exercises are hard and may bring tears and pains, but eternal joy from everlasting rewards for a godly attitude make it worth it. The short lived earthly trials will soon be over, but eternal joys go on forever and ever. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18)**.*

*Encouragement to face tomorrow is from the absolutely sure hope of heaven thru our faith in **Messiah's** gracious gift of **the righteousness of God** to those who **love Him (Second Corinthians 5:21)**. As we fix our eyes on **God**, we are blessed by both a future hope in heaven and we are filled with comfort of **God's love** that **He** has poured out in our hearts. **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 (Second Corinthians 4:17-18)**. **God's love** is always there (**Hebrews 13:5**). Praise **You** for being so wonderful! In your holy **Son Yeshua's** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

There are **five promises**, in the previous, this, and the next file. **The fourth**, is that **troubles produce endurance**. Every problem is a **character**-building opportunity, and the more difficult it is, the greater potential for building spiritual muscle and moral fiber. **Paul** declared: **We know that trouble produces endurance and endurance produces character (5:3b-4a)**. **Endurance** is the ability to continue onward in the face of **trouble**. We don't give up. We push forward. The English word for **trouble**, or tribulation, comes from the Latin word *tribulum*. In Paul's day, a *tribulum* was drawn over the grain to separate the wheat from the chaff. As we go through **trouble** and tribulations in our lives, we need to depend on **God's** grace. The tribulations merely purify us, and help us to get rid of the chaff.¹¹⁴ Only a believer who has faced **troubles** can develop godly **character**. What happens outwardly in your life is not as important as what happens inside you. Your circumstances are temporary, but your godly **character** will last forever.

The Bible often compares trials to a piece of metal in a refiner's fire that burns away impurities. **Peter** said: **These troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold (First Peter 1:7a NCV)**. A silversmith was asked, "How do you know when the silver is pure?" He replied, "When I see my reflection in it." When you've been refined by **trials**, people can see **Yeshua's** reflection in you. **James** said it this way: **Under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors (James 1:3 The Message)**. What do people see when they look at you?

When we are in the middle of a trial, we are so preoccupied with our pain that sometimes it can be difficult to see any purpose **in our troubles**. Often it is not until afterwards that we can look back and see that **ADONAI** had a reason for our suffering. **He** was pushing us to a higher level. **He** was **conforming us**, molding us, **into the image of His Son (Romans 8:29b)**. We will not reach perfection before we die, but **YHVH** means to bring us along as far as **He** can. We can reduce the pain we experience if, while suffering, we can somehow remember that our suffering has a purpose.¹¹⁵

Since **ADONAI** intends to make you just like **Yeshua**, **He** will take you through the same experiences **Yeshua** went through. That includes loneliness, temptation, stress, criticism, rejection, and many other problems. The Bible says that **Yeshua learned obedience through His sufferings . . . and was made perfect through suffering (Hebrews 5:8 and 2:10 NIV)**. Why would **YHVH** exempt us from what **He** allowed **His** own **Son** to experience? **Paul** said later: **We go through exactly what Christ went through. If we go through the hard times with Him, then we're certainly going to go through to good times with Him (Romans 8:17b The Message)**.¹¹⁶

Coming full circle, as it were, **Paul** says that godly **character produces godly hope (5:4)**. Are your disappointments too heavy? Read the story of the Emmaus-bound disciples. **The Savior** they thought was dead was walking beside them. **He** entered their house and sat at their table. And something happened in their hearts. **It felt like a fire burning in us when Yeshua talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us (Luke 24:32)**. Next time you're **troubled**, don't panic. Don't give up. Just be patient and let **God** remind you **He's** still in control. In ain't over till it's over. **Let us continue holding fast to the hope we acknowledge, without wavering; for the One who made the promise is trustworthy (Hebrews 10:23)**.

And this hope does not let us down (Greek: *kataischunei*, literally *make us ashamed, disappointed, or disgraced*, compare with **Psalms 22:5** and **25:20**) as if we would be if we had a false **hope**. **And hope delayed makes the heart sick (Proverbs 13:12a)**. But as

we wait for this **hope** to be fulfilled, **God's love for us has already been poured out in our hearts through the Ruach Ha'Kodesh who has already been given to us (5:5)**. For the first time in Romans, Paul speaks of **God's love**, and stresses **His love** for us is active. The reality of **God's love** in your **heart** can give you the promise of glory that is not misplaced and will not fail. This ministry of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** is related to **His** presence in your life. **He** has **stamped** you **as His property until the day of final redemption (Ephesians 4:30b)**, and as the down payment of your inheritance, **put His seal on you, and given you His Spirit in your heart as a guarantee of the future (Second Corinthians 1:22)**. Therefore, **ADONAI guarantees** that **He** will also keep **His** present promise to resurrect us (see [Cm](#) - **The Certainty of Redemption**).