LIFE 425 church

ROMANS: THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

Week 9 — Peace, Hope, and Joy in Christ

Romans 5:1–11

Big idea: Because we are justified through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God, hope that endures suffering, and joy because we have been reconciled to Him.

1. We have peace with God and access to His grace

Romans 5:1–2

To be *justified* means God has made us right with Himself through Jesus. Our standing with Him has changed.

Peace with God is more than a calm feeling. Even on a day when we feel anxious or unsettled, what Jesus has done remains true. We can come to God honestly—with our needs, questions, and failures—because we stand in His grace.

Cross reference: Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to approach God for mercy and help when we need it.

Remember: You do not have to get everything together before you pray.

2. We have hope that can grow through suffering

Romans 5:3–5

Paul describes a path through hardship: **suffering → perseverance → character → hope**.

This does not mean pain is easy or that we must pretend to be happy. Sometimes perseverance is simply taking the next faithful step and letting someone help carry what we're facing.

God has given us the Holy Spirit. We do not have to create hope through our own strength.

Remember: A hard season does not mean God has stopped working in your life.

3. The cross assures us of God's love

Romans 5:6–8

Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. He did not wait for us to become strong enough, good enough, or worthy enough to earn His love.

When circumstances make God's love difficult to feel, we can look to what He has shown us at the cross.

Cross reference: 1 John 4:10 reminds us that love begins with God's action toward us in sending His Son.

Remember: Your past does not put you beyond Christ's invitation to receive forgiveness.

4. We have joy because we are reconciled to God

Romans 5:9–11

Reconciliation means a broken relationship has been restored. Through Jesus, we have been brought back to God.

Paul's "how much more" gives us confidence: if God acted for us when we were His enemies, we can trust Him now that He has brought us near. Jesus is alive, and our future is secure in Him.

Christian joy can exist alongside grief and unanswered questions. Its deepest reason is that we belong to God.

Take it home

Which truth do you most need this week?

- **Peace:** Come to God in prayer, remembering that Jesus has given you access to Him.
- **Hope:** Ask for strength for the next step and tell a trusted believer what you're carrying.
- **Love:** When shame or doubt speaks loudly, return to Romans 5:8 and remember the cross.
- **Joy:** Thank God for bringing you back to Himself through Jesus.

A prayer for this week: Father, help me live in the peace You have given me through Jesus. Strengthen my hope when life is hard, remind me of Your love shown at the cross, and restore my joy in knowing You. Amen.