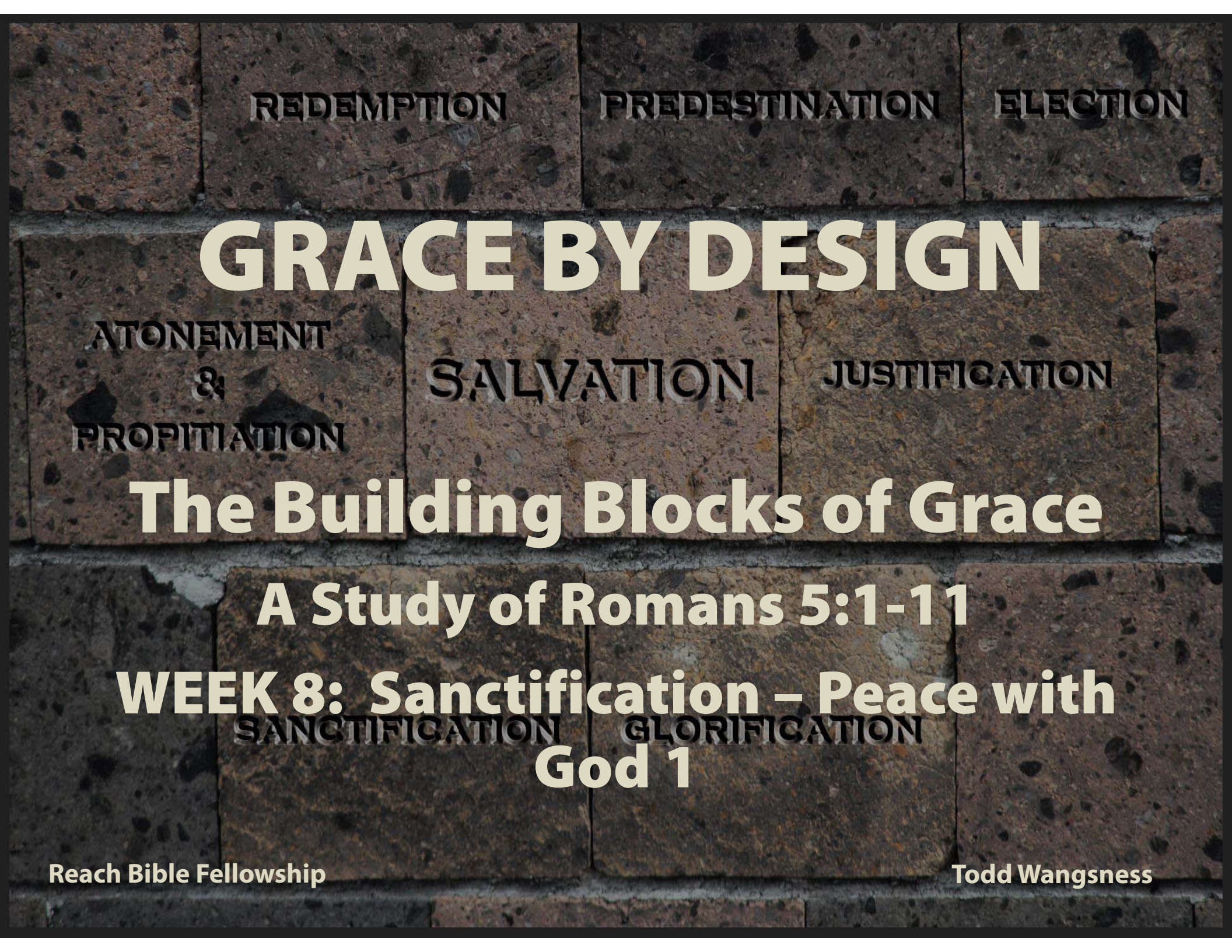


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 5:1-11

WEEK 8: Sanctification – Peace with God 1

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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Grace By Design study purpose reiterated…

- **To become more like Jesus Christ by:**
  - **Better understanding what God has done to bring us to Himself through His covenantal promises of:**
    - **Justification: Forgiveness of Sin**
    - **Sanctification: Deliverance from Sin**
    - **Glorification: Freedom from the Presence of Sin**
  - **Increasing our faith in God's power to accomplish our Salvation!**

- **Create a hunger and thirst in each of us for a deeper walk with God by better understanding (and believing!) these 'precious promises'!**

  2Pet 1:3-4 ***as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

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Three (easy?) steps to power over sin!

- **The three steps to Justification (described in Romans 1 - 4)**
  1. **REQUIRED: Recognizing and admitting that we are GUILTY before God**
  2. **REQUIRED: Accepting God's free gift of Justification through Jesus' sacrifice**
  3. **RECOMMENDED: Thanking God for the Salvation He has provided!**

- **Sanctification is similar (topic of Romans 5 – 8)**
  1. **REQUIRED: Admitting to God that we have sinned or are strongly tempted to sin**
  2. **REQUIRED: Bringing the sin or temptation under the covering blood of Jesus Christ**
  3. **RECOMMENDED: Thanking God for restoring our fellowship with Him!**

Paul now shifts the focus to Sanctification

- **In 5:1-11, he describes the Peace we have with God as a result of Justification**
- **In 5:12-21, he addresses the origin of sin in a parenthetical section of scripture**

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Secondary theme verse for the 2nd half of Romans 1 - 8

- ***Rom 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.***

Notable quotes about Faith

- **"Faith is like radar that sees through the fog—the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see." -- Corrie Ten Boom**

- **"Faith, in the sense in which I am here using the word, is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods." -- CS Lewis**

- **"Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it." -- Martin Luther**

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- It is important to recognize the progression of Salvation
  - During the marriage ceremony, there is a point in time when we change from being unmarried to being married
  - Similarly, there is a point in time when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and - by faith - are declared justified in Him
  - Thereafter, we have 'peace with God'
    - The most important aspect of this peace is the fact that God is at peace with us, through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ!
    - Due this fact, we then have peace in our own hearts, knowing that God is at peace with us.
  - God sees the blood of a perfect sacrifice and now has peace with us
    - His divine attribute of Righteousness (Justice) is satisfied (Justification)
  - We now take our sins (and sin nature) to the cross
    - Through Jesus' work on the cross, we are given POWER over sin and our sin nature
  - The Blood is for God … the Cross is for us

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What does it mean to have *"peace with God"*?

- **Reconciliation, Not Just Inner Calm**
  - **Unlike a general sense of tranquility, "peace with God" is relational—it's about the cessation of hostility between a person and God. Sin is a barrier that disrupts this relationship, and peace comes when that barrier is removed through forgiveness and grace.**
  - ***Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.***
- **A Gift Through Christ**
  - **Jesus' death and resurrection bridges the gap between humanity and God**
  - ***Col 1:20 "and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."***
  - **This means peace with God isn't something earned by human effort but received as a gift through trust (faith) in Christ's work**
- **Freedom from Guilt and Fear**
  - **When someone has peace with God, they no longer live under the weight of condemnation or fear of divine judgment**
  - ***Rom 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."***
  - **It's a state of assurance that God accepts and loves us**

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- **This peace is not just a lofty ideal! It is (or should be!) a present reality!**
  - **We are to now "rejoice [glory] in hope of the glory of God"!**

- **The same covenant that gave us Justification by faith, in the present, (by the same faith) gives us continual access to God's grace and power!**
  - **Once we see, believe and LAY HOLD OF this – we have the key to the Christian life!**

- **Just as with Justification – we lay hold of the Spirit's power to deliver us from sin (and our bondage to it!) through faith!**

- **Back to our theme verse**
  - **Rom 1:16 *"…it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, … The just shall live by faith."***

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:3 – 5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- **The progression of Sanctification**
  - **Jesus promises that the Believer will have tribulations**
    - *Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*
  - **A challenging state of mind to have joy in troubles, but central to the character growth of the Believer**
    - *Jam 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

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:6 – 9 ***For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.***

- **God was willing to completely reconcile us to Him while we were unbelieving sinners**
- **Likewise, He continues to restore us to fellowship with Him when we stumble after becoming Believers!**
- **This is the Progression of Sanctification!**

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:10 – 11 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- **Paul emphasizing again that God justified and reconciled us to Him while unbelievers**
  - **God is now at peace with us through the blood of Jesus Christ as we walk the rest of our lives in the progression of sanctification.**

- **Pay attention to the tenses – they're important!**
  - ***"we were reconciled to God"*** **is in the Past tense**
  - ***"shall be saved by His life"*** **is in the Present Perfect tense … an ongoing activity**

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FAITH

- **The word 'faith' appears 26 times in Rom 1 – 5!**
  - **The prerequisite for saving faith is true repentance**
    - ***2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.***
    - **Remorse is being sorry we got caught!**
    - **Repentance is being sorry enough to quit!**
    - **Must be tempered with the understanding that overcoming 'besetting sins' can be a process God leads us through.**

- **God wants us to believe Him and believe in Jesus Christ for our Justification AND Sanctification!**

- **Again … faith is our link to the power of God to overcome sin**

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FAITH References (very helpful to understand what faith is by reading it in context)

- *Luk 18:8 …Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*
- *Rom 1:16 …The just shall live by faith.*
- *Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*
- *Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
- *Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*
- *Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*
- *Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*
- *Eph 3:12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*
- *Phl 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*
- *Col 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

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FAITH References (continued)

- *1 Tim 1:19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,*
- *1 Tim 3:9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.*
- *1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*
- *Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*
- *Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
- *Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
- *Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- *Jam 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*
- *Jam 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.*

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FAITH References (continued)

- *1 Pet 1:5-9 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time … that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*
- *1 Pet 1:21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*
- *1 Pet 5:9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*
- *Jud 4 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*
- *Jud 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*
- *Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*

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- Faith is our 'conduit' to the power of God
- How big is your faith?
- How well does the power of God flow through you?

  Heb 5:13 "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe."



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- **Let's not deceive ourselves! We are in a VERY REAL BATTLE!**

- **What is the battleground?**
  - **The battle is for our minds and will**
  - **2 Cor 10:3-5** ***"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."***

- **Who is our enemy?**
  - **Eph 6:12** ***For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

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- **How do we fight?**
  - ***Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.***

- **What weapons do we use?**
  - **Eph 6:14-17 God's Armor! Read these verses. Understand the implications!**
    - **Truth: Have our waist girded with Truth**
    - **Righteousness: Breastplate of Righteousness**
    - **Gospel of Peace: Having our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace**
    - **Faith: Taking the Shield of Faith to quench fiery darts from the wicked one**
    - **Salvation: Put on the helmet of Salvation**
    - **Word of God: Use the Sword of the Spirt which is the Word of God**

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Eph 6:16 ***"above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."***

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- **Is there an option for 'neutrality'?**
  - **Prior to justification, we were under the power of darkness**
    - *Col 1:11-14 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*
  - **After justification, we are 'in Christ' and Christ is 'in us'!**
  - **Scripture clearly shows there is no middle ground**
    - *Mat 12:30 "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*
    - *Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*

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- **Is overcoming sin (and our sin nature) easy?**
  - **No! It's the hardest thing we'll ever face!**
  - **But we don't face it alone!!!**

- **Will we be completely victorious this side of heaven in overcoming besetting sins?**
  - **Maybe not … but many (through the grace and power of God) achieve breakthroughs in areas of weakness**
  - **Scripture says to strive to "be perfect as He is perfect" (Mat 5:48).**
  - **The only limitation is our FAITH!!!**
    - ***2 Pet 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,***
  - **Example of David … the bible records David overcame sexual weakness**
    - ***1 Kings 1:1-4***

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Four things to guard against in our battle against sin:

- **Comparing ourselves to others**
  - **This either creates a sense of superiority/self-confidence or causes despair**
  - **This soldier has taken his eye off the battle. He is going to get blind-sided!**
- **Complacency towards sin**
  - **"God made me this way! He understands why I can't overcome."**
  - **This soldier is guilty of dereliction of duty. This soldier left his assigned position at the front-line and went back to his tent to take a nap.**
- **Defeated mindset**
  - **"I'll never overcome! It's just too hard to even try!"**
  - **This soldier is a deserter. He saw the ferocity of the battle and ran away.**
- **Bitterness towards God**
  - **"God is withholding good from me!" or "God has given me more than I can bear!"**
  - **This soldier has crossed to the side of the enemy and is in rebellion against God or – at minimum – is providing aid and comfort to the enemy by accusing God of evil**

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Questions to ponder …

1. **How does the concept of 'peace with God' (Romans 5:1) change your understanding of your relationship with Him, especially considering our past state as sinners?**

2. **In verse 3-4, Paul says we can rejoice in suffering because it produces perseverance, character, and hope. Can you share an example from your life where suffering led to growth in one of these areas?**

3. **Verse 8 says, 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' How does this demonstration of God's love shape your view of His grace compared to human standards of love or deserve?**

4. **What do you think Paul means by 'hope does not put us to shame' in verse 5, and how does the Holy Spirit play a role in that assurance?**

5. **Verse 10 talks about being reconciled to God through Christ's death and saved by His life. How do these two aspects—His death and resurrection—work together to give us confidence in salvation?**