

## Romans 5:2

### Justification into a Condition of Strength, Joy, and Hope in Jesus

#### Monday, January 9, 2023 • Romans 5:2

*Questions from the Scripture text: What else do we have through Him (v2)? What is the mechanism through which we have this access? To what do we have this access? What do those who have this access also do? In what do they rejoice? In what is this hope?*

**What is the condition of being justified like?** Romans 5:2 looks forward to the sermon in this week's midweek meeting. In this verse of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the condition of being justified is not only a condition of peace and servitude, but now a condition of strength, joy, and hope.**

A condition of strength. "through Whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand." As we come into the section of the letter that argues the theology of the believer as God's slave for righteousness (ch. 6), the Spirit brings us there through the wonderful doctrine of union with Christ. We are not just under Christ as Lord; we are *in Christ* as Jesus, as Savior. So it is through Him, within Him, by means of Him that "we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand."

We are not brought by faith into a service that we can perform by works. Even our working, even our service, can be done only by God's own strength. That is to say, we stand not by the flesh but by grace: by God's strength in the place of our weakness (cf. 2Cor 12:9). Standing, strength for standing, comes only in Jesus, by a mechanism of faith. By the knowledge that Jesus is God's strength for us, by the awareness that He is carrying us.

A condition of joy. "through Whom also we [...] rejoice." Jesus doesn't just make us servants and make Himself our strength for that service. Jesus makes us happy servants. Here is a good test for whether I am actually a servant of Christ or am merely flattering myself that I am a servant of Christ: am I glad? Do I have joy? Jesus came that His joy might be in us (cf. Jn 15:11, 17:13). Through Jesus we have access to grace, and through Jesus we rejoice! It is possible to have an accurate knowledge of justification without having an experiential knowledge of justification; those who are justified in Jesus are made servants in Jesus and are made joyful in Jesus!

A condition of hope. "in hope of the glory of God." It is the truth of God's glory that the sinner has suppressed in unrighteousness (cf. 1:18-21). It is the blessedness of the Creator's glory that the sinner has exchanged in order to seek blessedness in creatures instead (cf. 1:25). It is against the glory of God that all have sinned, and it is the enjoyment of the glory of God that all have forfeited by that sin (cf. 3:23). But for the believer, Jesus has reversed all of this. Through Him, we "rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

This New Testament word 'hope' is not a wishful desire. Though we have grown accustomed to using the word that way in English, the word here doesn't mean something wishful but something that is absolutely certain. It means the ability to enjoy already something that is not yet seen (cf. 8:24; Heb 11:1). To put it succinctly: if we already have the righteousness of God, then we can already enjoy the certainty of God's glory.

The more that we experience a joy that profound, the less that light and momentary pleasures will succeed in compelling us to serve them instead of serving Christ.

By what strength have you been trying to stand? What is the source of your joy? What is the quality of your joy? For what do you hope? How surely do you hope?

*Sample prayer: Lord God, thank You for this righteous standing into which You have brought us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant unto us to know also the glorious condition into which You have brought us. Give us Your own strength, joy, and hope in Christ, in Whose Name, we ask it AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH433 "Amazing Grace"

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Romans five, the Portion is verse 2. And we'll read verses 1 and 2 to get the context a little bit more. I don't 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 the hope. Of the glory. Of god.

So flowing out of the first four chapters. In which being made right with god being made righteous before god having the righteousness. That is from god, comes Through faith in jesus christ. That the lord himself. Became the son of david that it was, the son of god, who became the son of David.

That he might be exhibited as a propitiation. As one who is equal to. The wrath that is due. Uh, to men for Uh, violating and defending against god's glory. And now, Instead of Falling short of the glory of god and being. As guilty as god is glorious. Because it is through jesus that we have peace with god.

We may look forward. To having joy. That is as great as god is glorious. So we'll we'll not we'll no longer be as guilty as god as glorious, but we are already as righteous as god is glorious because we are righteous in jesus And we will be as joyous.

As god is glorious. Jesus's joy will be in us. And it will increase forever. And we will. But we will never finish. The. Enjoyment of god or even the increase of the enjoyment of god. So we've already seen in verse 1, That justification brings us into a condition of peace with god.

And that justification brings us into a condition of servitude because that piece is now through a lord. Our lord jesus christ. But here we see in verse 2. But also brings us into a

A condition of. Strength, a condition of joy. And the condition of hope first. A condition of strength through whom. Also, we have access by faith into this. Grace in which we stand. Now, the word in the in the verse is grace, it brings us into a condition of grace.

But the word grace can be used in many different ways. For instance, it can be used, especially for blessing For those who have. Or deserve only curse. But in this case, It is a grace in which, or by which We stand. How is it that the believer? Can stand, can continue.

But can stand up to. All of the difficulties of life. All of the opposition of his remaining sin. All of the opposition of the world, all the opposition of the devil himself. How is it that we can stand? You remember in Ephesians chapter 6 as he's leading into The.

Discussion of the spiritual warfare. That it's not just that we are light over against darkness and As he had begun in effusions, chapter 5 to say, but then in Ephesians chapter 6, he's talking about being an actual battle. That the darkness and the powers of darkness. Are at war with us.

Then you keep saying stand stand, how do you stand? Well, you stand by the power of god. Using the armor of god. Here, he describes that standing by the power of god. Using the armor of God that God has given us. Particular means. To employ and trust him that he is using.

To keep us standing. He describes that as the grace. This grace, not just thought grace this grace. In which we stand. So Jesus, Is not only the one through whom we have peace with god. But if you've been justified by faith, In Jesus Christ. And if through Jesus Christ you have peace with god, then through him.

Also you have access by that faith into this grace in which we stand. So, the mechanism for being strong to stand in the Christian life. Against the world and the flesh. And the devil is the same as the mechanism by which we had been declared righteous. By God, it is through.

It is through faith. In Jesus Christ. Resting upon him. Not stirring up strength from within ourselves. But finding even from him, the resolution to stand. And then from him also the strength to stand and this is a this is a position of great strength. Um, Yeah, a A baby.

Eagle. In the eagle's nest, way up high, where nothing else can touch it. There is in itself. Very weak. But it is in its position. Very strong unassailable. The enemies of the eagle. Cannot get that baby. Because it is in the nest. It is held up. By the nest.

Well, if you are resting upon Jesus Christ, if he has given you faith, the rest upon him, You are held up by Jesus Christ. And your strength. Is unassailable. It is by his grace. That we stand. His grace is sufficient for us as strength is made, perfect and weakness.

So we ourselves are still weak. But we are in a condition of strength. By faith in Jesus Christ. So that's the first part through him. Also, we have access by faith into this grace, in which we stand a conditional strength and then a condition of joy. And, We rejoice.

So through him. We not only have access to my faith and to grace, but through him, we Rejoice. Jesus doesn't make us servants. And make it. Uh, doesn't only make us servants and make himself our strength. For that service. Jesus makes us happy. In his service. We have peace with god through our lord Jesus Christ through whom we rejoice.

If you are the servant of Christ, if you're the slave of Christ, there are There are three possibilities. Well, one is an impossibility, but many people who think that they are slaves of Christ. Um, Go around miserable that they have to obey him. That person is not a slave of Christ.

He's a slave of his sin. Here's a slave of his sin with his conscience, pricked. By the word of God. But if you go around thinking, oh, i can't believe i have to obey, Jesus, it's so miserable to To have to obey Jesus. Why can't i just do what i want?

Why can't i just please my flesh. Why can't i be in charge? Why can't i have more stuff? Why can't i have more people who like me, why can't things just be easier for me? Then obviously, you're not rejoicing. And the reason you're not rejoicing in that case is That the lord.

Jesus Christ does not actually your lord and savior. Uh, your master is still sin. If you go through life, that way. Now, there is a possibility. Of. Being saved. But having such a big view. Uh, too much focus on yourself. You your mind is always stuck on and obsessed with the things that are in Romans chapter 7.

So, oh, I wish i could obey Jesus. But i can't obey Jesus and i'm too weak and i'm always sinning. And the things that i want to do i don't do and the things that i hate i do and Your whole life is not thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

Our lord At the end of the chapter, your whole life is the previous phrase. Who will save me from the body of this death? Now. You're thinking that way because you do have these right new desires from your new nature. But you have to grow in the the gracious experience of what it is to be a Christian Because what it is to be a Christian is to say thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

Our lord Is to say i have peace with God. I have a lord, i have a master. Jesus Christ sin is no longer my master. Even if it seems to be i can say. Nope, it's not. I know of a theological certainty that it isn't. So even if it feels like there is a law in my members that i have to admit the law of the spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death.

And by the spirit of Jesus, i'm going to put to death, these deeds of the body. They cannot defeat me because Jesus has already won the decisive battle. And so 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 and which we stand and rejoice, The condition that.

Jesus brings us into. Should be a condition of joy. So even in the midst of the battle, even in the battle is going poorly. Even when the battle suggests the question who will save me from the body of this death? If i have peace, if i'm justified by faith i have the answer ready in my hand.

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ. Our lord There is therefore now, no condemnation. Beginning of Romans 8. There can be no separation. Between me and the love of God, end of Romans 8, because he is working all things for the good that is to be conformed to the image of his son.

You don't separate verse 28 from like versus 29 to 31. All things work together for the good of those who love God called according to this purpose. What's the purpose? Well, i was going to be for you. He predestined to be conformed, to the image of his son, and in order to conform us to the image of his son, He?

He justifies and will most certainly so that it's even said in past tense, glorify us. And so, Being justified through faith brings us into a condition of joy. Because, It brings us into a condition in the last place. Of hope. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

So yes, we're going to get to rejoicing in. Uh, and glorying in actually. Numbers three. Our tribulations or rejoicing and tribulations. As James chapter 1 teaches. But before we talk about rejoicing in the present, Uh, we have to remember that questions are ones who live in heaven and live in the future.

We live by faith and so, we live With a certainty about things that are not yet, and do not seem Not yet in the future, not seen in heaven. Uh, but No less certain. For the fact that they are not seen. No less certain. For the fact that they are not yet.

So we rejoice in the hope of the glory of god. This word. That's translated. Hope is not a wishful desire. Um, Although most people in english, use the word in our day, use that english word like that, right? I hope that this, i hope that that When they say that, they don't mean, i am absolutely certain even though that it hasn't happened yet, that this is what's going to happen.

But that's what the, that's what the word that's being translated, hope in our Um, english bibles. That's what that word means. So we rejoice in the certainty. That although i cannot yet, see his glory and do not glorify him. Like i ought to and and myself not glorified like i will be when i am finally and fully conformed to the image of his son I am so absolutely certain to all those things are.

Uh, our future fact. That i rejoice in them. Now i can be happy about them. Now i can respond to the reality. Of them now. And what's the biggest response? Of course it's joy. So, condition of strength, the condition of joy, and a condition of hope. It's not just.

A theological. Uh, legal. Uh, calculation. If we have been justified by faith, we are brought into this wonderful condition. Both a piece and of servitude, like we've heard in the last two weeks. But then this week lord willing. As we will hear into a condition of strength. A condition of joy.

And the condition of hope. And if we do not feel, The strongness, the strength. Or the joyousness or the hope fullness. Of the condition that we are in. It is because we still need the spirit to work out more in us. The truth that he tells us in his word.

And he uses, Our reading and our reflecting upon his word to work it out in us. So let's pray and ask him to bless to us this study time. And that he would help us be. As the bible commands us to me, those who meditate upon his word, who keep this in mind, he's brought me into a condition of joy.

He's brought me into a condition of strength, these brought me into a condition of hope. And remembering all those different passages that we were pulling together. To produce the strength of joy and hope in us. Let's pray.

We thank you. Lord jesus that When we rest upon you, we are infinitely. More on a salable. Then eagle chicks and the nest. And so we pray for the help of your spirit applying to us. Through your word. Uh, your own Righteousness, your own resurrection power and light. Your own joy.

Your own. Hope. And we pray that you would make us to live.

We pray that you admit.

We pray that you would make us to live as a joyous and hopeful. And strong people that we would stand by your grace. And we thank you for the way you designed it. So that We wouldn't just begin our christian life with arresting upon you. But that this resting upon you would be.

The mechanism of our entire life. How sweet. Oh, lord. That you would make us have to live in fellowship with you, by faith in you. Grant by your spirit that we would do. So we ask in your own name. Amen.