

The Well Community Church – Indian Telugu Service | Sunday, 21 September 2025

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Welcome to The Well Community Church – Indian Telugu Service. This month we are in a series called **Confident Hope**. Let's dig deeper into that confident hope today.

Please open your Bible to **Romans 5:1–11**

Confident Hope — Justified and Born Again to a Living Hope

Most people use “hope” like a wish: *I hope it won't rain; I hope things work out*. But Scripture speaks of **hope as certainty**: not a coin toss, but an anchor (Heb 6:19). Where does that kind of hope come from? Not from personality or positivity. It comes from **God's past action** in Christ and **God's future promise** secured by the resurrection and guarded by the Spirit.

Let's hear it from God's Word—first from Paul

Romans 5:1–11

The Ground of Hope (Romans 5:1–11)

Text overview: Romans 1–4 has argued that all have sinned and that we are justified—declared righteous—by faith apart from works. **Romans 5** answers: *So what now? What difference does justification make?* Paul gives seven cascading gifts of grace that ground our hope.

1) Peace with God

Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Not** a mood, but a new **status**. The war is over. Hostility replaced by reconciliation.
- Hope begins here: if God is **for** us, the future is not hostile ground; it's grace territory.

Do you **know** you're at peace with God—or are you still trying to make peace by performance? Confident hope grows where justification is settled.

2) Access into grace

Through him we have also obtained **access** by faith into this **grace in which we stand**.

- The word means being introduced by a royal escort into the throne room. We **stand** not sneak in grace.

- Hope withers when we live like probationary servants; hope flourishes when we live as welcomed sons and daughters.

3) We rejoice in hope of the glory of God

- The end of our story is **glory**, sharing in God's presence and likeness.
- Christian hope points **forward**: the best is not behind us; it *awaits* us.

4) We rejoice in our sufferings

- Suffering isn't good, but God **uses** it. Pressure doesn't cancel hope; in Christ it **produces** hope.
- **Chain of formation:**
 - **Suffering** → **Endurance**: staying under the weight with God.
 - **Endurance** → **Character**: provenness; faith tested becomes trustworthy.
 - **Character** → **Hope**: as we see God hold us, we expect Him to finish what He started.
- **Application cue**: Instead of asking only "Why is this happening?", ask **What is this producing?**

5) Assurance by the Spirit

Hope does **not** put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.

- The Spirit is God's **present witness**—God's love experienced, not just explained.
- Hope is both **theological** (what God has done) and **experiential** (what God is doing in us now).

6) The logic of the cross: Much more

At the **right time Christ died for the ungodly** ... God shows his love for us in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us** ... having been justified by his blood, **much more** shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God ... **much more**, now that we are **reconciled**, shall we be saved by his **life**."

- Paul argues from **past grace to future grace**: If God loved us at our worst, **much more** will He keep us now that we're His.
- The cross is **proof**; the resurrected life of Jesus is **power** for our future.

7) We boast in God

"More than that, we also **rejoice/boast in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

- The mouth of hope is **worship**. We don't boast in toughness or morality; we boast in **God**.

Transition: Romans 5 answers, *Why is hope secure?* Because salvation is God's work from start to finish.

The Shape of Hope (1 Peter 1:3–9)

Peter writes to scattered believers facing social pressure and suffering. He doesn't begin with advice but with **adoration**

A) The Source of HOPE

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His **great mercy**, He has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.

- Hope is **alive** because Jesus is **alive**.
- Not self-improvement; **new birth**. God **caused** it. Mercy, not merit.

B) The Security of hope

"...to an **inheritance** that is **imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you**."

- Our future is not fragile: it won't decay, be stained, or lose its shine.
- It is **kept**—guarded in the bank vault of heaven.

C) The Shield of hope

"...who by **God's power are being guarded through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- Not only is the inheritance kept for us; **we are kept for it**.
- Guarded = military term. God's power surrounds us as we trust Him.

D) The Refining of hope

In this you **rejoice**, though now for a **little while**, if necessary, you have been **grieved** by various **trials**, so that the **tested genuineness** of your **faith**—more precious than **gold that perishes though it is tested by fire**—may be found to result in **praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Two honest words: **rejoice** and **grieved**—Christians can hold both at once.
- Trials are not random; they are the **refiner's fire**. God values our **faith** more than gold.
- Outcome: **Jesus is honored, and our faith is purified**.

E) The Affection of hope

Though you have **not seen** him, you **love** him. Though you do not now see him, you **believe** in him and **rejoice** with **joy inexpressible** and **filled with glory**, obtaining the **outcome** of your faith, the **salvation of your souls**.

- Christian maturity = **deepening love for an unseen Savior**.
- Joy that words can't cage; a taste of future glory **now**.

Put Romans and Peter together and you get this: **Because God has made peace with us and given us new birth, our future is secured, our present is guarded, and our trials are redeemed**. That is **confident hope**.

Practices — How We Live This Week

1. **Remember your status** (Rom 5:1–2). Begin each day: *"In Christ I stand in grace; I have peace with God."*
2. **Reframe your pressures** (Rom 5:3–4). Ask daily: *"What endurance, character, and hope is God forming here?"*
3. **Receive the Spirit's witness** (Rom 5:5). Take 5 minutes to sit and simply pray: *"Holy Spirit, pour the Father's love into my heart."*
4. **Rejoice before you see** (1 Pet 1:6–8). Practice gratitude in the middle of grief: list three evidences of grace today.
5. **Stay with the people of hope**. Share a testimony this week of how God met you in a trial.
6. **Set your eyes on the inheritance** (1 Pet 1:4–5). When anxiety spikes, speak aloud: *"Kept for me, and I am being kept."*

Missionary Story: Amy Carmichael & the Dohnavur Fellowship — Hope That Keeps Showing Up

Setting: South India, early 1900s. Amy Carmichael (from Northern Ireland) felt called to serve in India. She battled chronic pain and frequent setbacks yet kept saying "Yes" to God's leading.

Crisis & Call: Amy discovered that some vulnerable girls were being dedicated to temples and trafficked. Doors to help them were legally and culturally complicated. Progress was painfully slow; resources were thin; opposition was real. Many days looked like *nothing was changing*.

Hope in Practice: Rather than waiting for perfect conditions, Amy practiced active hope—one rescued child at a time, one safe home at a time. She founded the Dohnavur Fellowship (Tamil Nadu), creating a family-like community with education, prayer, and protection. When friends urged “be realistic,” she replied with a hopeful realism shaped by God’s promises, not visible odds.

Long Night: Late in life, after a serious fall, Amy spent nearly two decades mostly bedridden. Her public work seemed over. But she kept *writing, praying, and mentoring*, believing God was still at work. She often said, *“It is a safe thing to trust Him to fulfill the desires which He creates.”*

Outcome: Thousands of children were sheltered and disciplined; the work outlived her. Even from bed, Amy’s books and letters kept strengthening others. Hope didn’t erase suffering—but suffering produced endurance, character, and deeper hope.

- Romans 5:3–5 — Suffering → Endurance → Character → Hope. Amy’s chronic pain and opposition became the forge where hope was formed; the Spirit kept pouring God’s love into her heart.
- 1 Peter 1:3–5 — New birth to a living hope and kept by God’s power. The children she rescued were raised in this living hope, and Amy believed both the inheritance is kept and we are kept for it.