

III. KNOW THAT CHARACTER DEVELOPS HOPE

“...and character, hope.” Romans 5:4b

Hope refers to confidence.

“24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—

28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?” II Corinthians 11:24-29

The pain of tribulation is not good, but the process is good because it leads to Christlikeness.

“28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:28-29

**DON'T JUST GO THROUGH THIS CRISIS;
GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE THROUGH IT!**

GROWING THROUGH OUR CRISIS DON'T JUST GO THROUGH OUR CRISIS, GROW THROUGH IT

**Growing From Ignorance To Knowledge
Pastor Steve Reynolds**

INTRODUCTION

- A. The world is in a crisis! The Coronavirus is OUR crisis. We did not choose this crisis, but we do choose how we respond to it. We can choose to just go through it or better yet we can choose to GROW through it. The choice is up to you!

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

II Peter 3:18

- B. The Growing Through Our Crisis teaching series will help you grow spiritually through this crisis. This will be a verse by verse study of Romans 4:20-5:5. You will discover four opportunities to grow through our crisis. The messages include:

Apr 12 Growing From Unbelief To Faith
Apr 19 Growing From Misery To Joy
TODAY Growing From Ignorance To Knowledge
May 3 Growing From Despair To Hope

- C. **TEXT:** Romans 5:3-4 (Pew Bible/Page 1107/New Testament)

GROWING FROM IGNORANCE TO KNOWLEDGE

- One of the unique benefits of being a Christian is you can positively combine the words “tribulation” and “joy”.

“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,”
I Thessalonians 1:6

- You will go thru much tribulation in your lifetime.

“2 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
Acts 14:22

- The mature response to tribulation is joy.

“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.”
John 16:33

“12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.”
I Peter 4:12-13

- The right knowledge (mind) leads to joy (emotion).

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge....” Hosea 4:6a

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:32

THREE THINGS YOU MUST KNOW TO GROW

I. KNOW TRIBULATION DEVELOPS PERSEVERANCE

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;”
Romans 5:3

Perseverance refers to endurance.

“2 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.”
James 1:2-4

“40 And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”

Acts 5:40-42

II. KNOW THAT PERSEVERANCE DEVELOPS CHARACTER

“and perseverance, character;... “
Romans 5:4a

Character refers to purity.

“6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 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,”

I Peter 1:6-7

“8 “Look, I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him;

9 When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand, I cannot see Him.

10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”
Job 23:8-10