

Bible Study Romans 5:1-11

1. Do you ever boast? Why is boasting so regularly spoken against in the Bible? Eg Rom 3:27 (also 1 Cor 1:29, 3:21, 4:7).

Most boasting is the glorying in or taking pride in something that is unworthy of our praise – like ourselves – because it is only temporary or tainted with imperfection. Such boasting is usually designed, in some way, to bring glory and praise to ourselves.

2. **Read Rom 5:1-11.** Carefully read through the passage again and note down everything about the Christian that relates to the following three headings;

Past	Present	Future
<i>Justified by faith</i>	<i>have peace with God</i>	<i>the glory of God</i>
<i>God poured his love into our hearts</i>	<i>Have God's love in us</i>	<i>Saved from God's wrath through Jesus</i>
<i>Received God's Spirit</i>	<i>Rejoice in future</i>	
<i>Jesus died for us</i>	<i>Rejoice in sufferings</i>	
<i>We were powerless / we were sinners</i>	<i>We'll suffer</i>	
<i>Justified by Jesus' blood</i>	<i>Have God's Spirit</i>	
<i>We reconciled with God</i>	<i>Rejoice in God</i>	
	<i>Are reconciled with God</i>	

3. a. Which of the things listed above do you most appreciate? Why?
- b. Are there any things you rarely, if ever, think about? Why?
4. "Justified" means declared to be in the right (not guilty) before God. How has this happened? Look back to 3:21-26.

Despite our powerlessness and guilt, God gave Jesus as the one perfect sacrifice in our place. By putting our trust in that work, God takes our guilt and applies it to Jesus, and he takes Jesus' innocence and applies it to us, declaring us to be righteous – justified.

5. What are the immediate results of being justified by faith?

Peace with God, hope (certainty about the future) therefore confidence rather than anxiety about what is to come, joy, love, assurance, the ability to persevere through suffering.

6. How might vv3-4 help explain why suffering causes some people to grow closer to God and turns other people away from God?

The person who is "justified by faith" will always be confident that God is for them. So no matter how painful their suffering, they will know God wants their good. The one who isn't justified by faith will think differently about God, they might think God owes them for their good performance over the years or they might think God is punishing them for something wrong they've done and they'll always be insecure in how they think about God. Suffering will expose the fact that they don't have a real relationship with God.

7. The word "rejoice" in this passage (v2, 3 & 11) is literally "boast". What does godly boasting look like? Do we boast like this?

It's to 'take pride' in what God has done for us and what he will yet do for us – it is to praise the one who is worthy of all praise.

8. Can a Christian be absolutely certain that if they died right now they would be accepted by God into his eternal presence and kingdom? Explain.

Yes. Because God has done everything necessary in the death of Jesus.

9. Imagine a Christian friend tells you they are very anxious about their relationship with God. They believe Jesus died for them, and they're not aware of any particular sin they are committing, but they just don't feel they are right with God. What could you say from this passage that might encourage them?