

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY TWELVE

Triumphant Joy

Romans 5:1–11

Joy is an abiding presence of seeing the hand of God at work and knowing that He has a purpose that will bring Him glory and bring me good.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

ONE reason we go to the movies is to experience triumphant joy. We cheer when the characters overcome adversity. Our hearts find relief when they learn from their past mistakes, avoid pitfalls, and show strength and maturity. Even the boat that stays afloat in a violent storm and makes it safely to shore brings us a sense of hope. We leave the theater feeling like triumphant joy is possible.

In some ways, Paul scripted Romans like a movie plot. The letter opens with Jesus Christ “raised from the dead” (Romans 1:4) and the good news that this same “power of God [is] at work” (1:16). It’s a welcoming scene . . . then comes the crisis. Paul exposes humankind’s sinful condition, building to the climactic declaration that “No one is righteous” (3:10). No amount of personal effort can overcome sin and spare us God’s condemnation. What can we do?

Enter our Hero! Jesus bore our sin on the cross, and “we are made right with God by placing our faith in [Him]” (3:22). The crisis is resolved! Triumphant joy is possible in Christ. Sunset scene. Roll credits. End of story . . . no wait!

The plot of Romans is just beginning! According to Paul, life only gets better after our salvation. Paul spends the next twelve chapters, Romans 5–16, teaching us how to live the most triumphant, exhilarating life imaginable as we walk with God.

In this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we’ll explore the many benefits of having a relationship with God through Jesus. We’ll embrace the spiritual reality that, in this pressured world, *we all can have triumphant joy!*





PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you open the Word, the psalmist invites you to . . .

Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Express your gratitude to God for the blessings of life, the privilege of knowing Him, and the trustworthiness of His teachings that bring light to your eyes and joy to your heart.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

The Lord told Ananias in Damascus that He had chosen Saul, also known as Paul, as His instrument to take the gospel to gentiles, kings, and Israel and that He would show him how much he must suffer for His name's sake ([Acts 9:10–19](#)). Beaten, flogged, stoned, shipwrecked, and even bitten by a poisonous snake, Paul suffered much for Christ ([Acts 20:21–23](#); [27:1–28:31](#); [2 Corinthians 11:23–29](#)).

Yet, amid all the sufferings, it was joy, not bitterness, that oozed out of Paul's pores. After being severely beaten in Philippi for setting free a slave girl from demonic oppression, he was heard singing hymns to God in the dungeon ([Acts 16:16–34](#)). A decade later, around AD 62, while sitting in prison in Rome, Paul wrote to the young church in Philippi, "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—*rejoice!*" (Philippians 4:4, emphasis added).

Describe how Paul's connection with Christ filled him with joy despite his circumstances.

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Observation: Triumphant Joy

Paul provides a map to joy's source in [Romans 5:1–11](#). Overview the passage in the NLT and NASB. Also read [5:1–11](#) in the NIV and NET translations. Note the change in verb tenses, such as “having been” and “have” (Romans 5:1 NASB), “having been” and “we shall” (5:10 NASB). How did Paul point his readers to the past, present, and future?

Read again [5:1–5](#). Paul mentioned triumphant joy as the last benefit! Note the repeated phrase, “We celebrate.” What are the three levels of this joy according to [5:2](#), [3](#), [11](#)?

1. “We celebrate in _____” (5:2 NASB).
2. “We celebrate in _____” (5:3 NASB).
3. “We celebrate in _____” (5:11 NASB).

Why can we rejoice in tribulations, according to [5:3–5](#)? What do they produce in us?

Reread [5:7–10](#). When did Christ die for us? Having been justified and reconciled, what shall we be saved from in the future?

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What does our reconciliation with God give us that causes us to rejoice [Romans 5:11](#)?

Grace is our territory. And in it we stand! And standing in it, we have the life of Christ that is reality. And it becomes for us a jubilation, triumphant joy.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Living Above the Circumstances

Interpretation helps us dig deeper into [Romans 5:1–11](#).¹

Being justified by faith, “we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us” (Romans 5:1). Deepen your understanding of the term [peace](#) by looking up the term in a Bible dictionary like *Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* at biblestudytools.com. If you use this source, look at the section titled “God as the Source of Peace.” How would you explain this term to a friend?

Before the cross we were at enmity. We had a caricature in our mind of who God is, and having come to Christ, there is a peace relationship between us. We have peace with God. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Believers have access by faith into grace—this “grace in which we stand” (5:2 NASB). What does it mean to “stand” in grace? How can God’s grace be a place?

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Every child of God when born again enters into, because of faith in Christ, the territory of grace that becomes our acreage. It is the place of our habitation.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul wrote that believers “celebrate in” hope, in tribulation, and in God Himself (Romans 5:2–3, 11 NASB). The Greek term for “celebrate,” *kauchaomai*, can be translated “boast.” The Greek word, *thlipsis*, is translated “tribulation.” Look up the definitions of these words in the Greek lexicon at billmounce.com. Why would we boast in tribulation? That seems an odd response to adversity. What did Paul mean?

As I hold together through the power of Christ in this pressure, there is built within me an inner fortitude—an ability to abide under. This isn’t pretending; it isn’t positive thinking. Perseverance leads to reliability, that sterling quality of character. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

We noted in [Romans 5:7–10](#) that because we believers have been reconciled, we shall be saved by Christ’s life. What is the meaning of *reconciliation*? Consult your resources like *Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* at biblestudytools.com.

God, who is all love and grace and mercy, looks upon us and reaches out to us through Christ, and we, because of Christ, have a bridge built to God marked “reconciliation.” —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

No more enmity between us and God. The bridge is built. Grace is our new territory. Victory is our lifestyle. And we rejoice in our relationship with the living God!

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Correlation: Joy in Tribulations!

The Holy Spirit is the source of joy—the tree on which the fruit of joy grows (*Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22–23*). Lives yielded to Him know and experience that deep-seated gladness even during hardship. Take time to compare *Habakkuk 3:17–20; Acts 5:40–42; Romans 5:3–5*. What similarities do you observe from these passages? Which passage touches you the most? Why?

How can we jubilate if we're pressured? Our jubilation will come from above when we realize that the pressure is all part of the plan of God to bring us to the place He wants us to be as we grow toward maturity. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Compare *Romans 5:3–5; Philippians 4:4–19; and 1 Thessalonians 5:16–17*. What did the apostle Paul command the believers of Philippi and Thessalonica to do? How would you describe the relationship between humility, prayer, peace, and joy?

When I cultivate this attitude of teachability and humility before God and gratitude to Him, a joy begins to spread within me. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Application: Rejoice!

Application allows the truths we gleaned from God's Word to grip us in areas that need attention and to challenge us to radical obedience and life transformation. To experience triumphant joy, Pastor Chuck encourages us to have the right focus and the right attitude.

Think of some practical ways you can adjust your lens to your Savior and elevate your attitude to divine altitude.

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The key to rejoicing is having the right focus. Focus is no longer on myself or my circumstances. My focus is now on my Savior, who has taken up residence in my life and longs to have first place on the throne of my will.

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Express your heart's reaction to knowing that you can live above life's circumstances.

One of the greatest truths I learned in all my life is that I am not in charge; God is. I now know the secret of rest, and that is saying to Him every morning, “You’re in charge. This day is Yours. You’re sovereign. You’re the potter; I’m the clay. You’re the master; I’m the servant. You’re the leader; I’m the follower. You’re the mentor; I’m the disciple. You’re going to be glorified. You’re going to shape me into the person You want me to be—with sterling character and jubilant joy.”

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



A FINAL PRAYER

Dear Father, thank You for building the bridge between You and me! Thank You for hope for the future! Thank You for triumphant joy for today through my precious Savior, Jesus Christ! In His name, I pray. Amen!

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2007, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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