

Development of Esprit de Corps: Confidence Is Based on Knowledge & Expressed by Love for God; Prayer, Suffering, & the Problem-Solving Devices, Romans 5:3-5

Romans 5:3 - Let us demonstrate esprit de corps [καυχάομαι, *kauchaomai*] in adversity [persecutions, trials, distressing circumstances], knowing that such adversity brings about courage [ὕπομονή, *hupomonē*: courage, honor, & integrity in time of disaster];

v. 4 - and courage under pressure brings about proven character [δοκιμή, *dokimē*: demonstrated integrity]; and proven character, brings about confident expectation [ἐλπίς, *elpis*: in blessings from divine integrity];

v. 5 - and confidence in God never disappoints because love *for* God has been poured out into our streams of consciousness [inculcation of biblical truth] through the agency of the Holy Spirit Who was given to us [indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation].

52. This passage instructs us that the development of esprit de corps in adversity builds courage in the soul and this courage in the face of adversity proves our character.
53. This proven character is the expression of human integrity that has as its foundation absolute confidence in the plan of God and complete submission to the will of God.
54. This absolute confidence never disappoints. This confidence is centered on advanced knowledge of biblical truth that gives us orientation to the plan of God and the capacity to submit to the will of God.
55. Such a disposition is developed over time and is reflected outwardly by an ever-growing love *for* God, all made possible by the teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit who functions in the soul of the believer who is consistent with rebound and habitual in his spiritual growth.
56. In the sophisticated spiritual life of such a believer there is the consistent application of the problem-solving devices. Events, exigencies, problems, testings, and disasters are managed with these assets and enable the believer to orient and adjust to life.
57. The thought capacity of such a believer can manage whatever life presents and thus he has a powerful prayer life that is grace oriented and doctrinally oriented.
58. It is the content of the believer's doctrinal inventory that enables him to pray with confidence. He has come to believe the Word and thus orients to the plan of God and submits to the will of God.
59. There are a number of principles that can be observed from this passage in Romans 5:3-5. Certain categories of suffering are necessary for spiritual momentum and glorifying God and whenever the believer uses doctrine to conquer testing angels cheer.
 1. There is greater power in the ten problem-solving devices than in the intensity of certain categories of prayer.
 2. What God does not remove, He intends for us to bear. This bearing up is not accomplished through prayer but rather through application of the problem-solving devices.
 3. These problem-solving devices are designed for every category of suffering in life, therefore, in most cases suffering is designed for blessing.
 4. To pray that one's suffering be removed is motivated by a desire to be taken out from under its adversities. If God were to remove the suffering He would also have to retain the blessing associated with successful endurance.

