



**SPRING-TIME DAILY
ENCOURAGEMENTS**

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

June 20, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

STRENGTHENED THROUGH TRIALS

We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3-4

READ Romans 5:1-5

The memories flooded back when I rustled through some envelopes and glimpsed a sticker that said, "I've had an eye test." In my mind I saw my four-year-old son proudly wearing the sticker after enduring stinging eyedrops. Because of weak eye muscles, he had to wear a patch for hours each day over his strong eye—thereby forcing the weaker eye to develop. He also needed surgery. He met these challenges one by one, looking to us as his parents for comfort and depending on God with childlike faith. Through these challenges he developed resilience.

People who endure trials and suffering are often changed by the experience. But the apostle Paul went further and said to "glory in our sufferings" because through them we develop perseverance. With perseverance comes character; and with character, hope (Romans 5:3-4). Paul certainly knew trials—not only shipwrecks but imprisonment for his faith. Yet he wrote to the believers in Rome that "hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (v. 5). The apostle recognized that God's Spirit keeps our hope in Jesus alive when we put our trust in Him.

Whatever hardships you face, know that God will pour out His grace and mercy on you. He loves you.

By Amy Boucher Pye

PRAY & REFLECT

Ever-loving God, You promise that You'll never leave me. Help me to hold on to Your promises even when I'm struggling. Amen

How have trials and challenges actually helped you trust God more? How could you commit yourself to His care in what you currently face?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

The New Testament reveals much about the Holy Spirit. When we repent and receive Jesus as our Savior, God gifts us with the Spirit (Acts 2:38). Through Him, God pours His love into our hearts (Romans 5:5). In this way, our bodies become the Holy Spirit's temple and He lives in us (1 Corinthians 6:19). The Spirit gives us love, joy, peace (Galatians 5:22), encouragement (Acts 9:31), and hope (Romans 15:13). He also teaches us and guides us. Jesus told His disciples, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26; see 15:26). The Spirit enables us, like Peter, to speak boldly about Christ (Acts 4:8). He also warns us (20:23) and gives us spiritual gifts (Hebrews 2:4). The Spirit of truth, our Advocate, is with us forever (John 14:16-17). – By **Alyson Kieda**

Used with permission