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“To God’s Beloved: Paul’s Letter to the Romans”

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Session 3: Hope Does Not Disappoint

Welcome to Session 3 of our study of Paul’s letter to the Romans. In this session, we will focus primarily on Chapters 5 and 6 of this letter. These are very important chapters for all of us because in them, Paul recognizes that all of us live really in two ways. One, we live in confidence and even joy at the presence of God in our lives. And you will see that Paul insists that that presence of God, God’s spirit, the spirit of holiness—he names it in a variety of ways—is alive and well in each and every one of us who are believers, to give us joy and the power of prayer, compassion, hope, and faith beyond the power that any one of us would have on our own.

At the very same time, Paul is pastor enough and honest enough to put before us the fact that we continue to suffer in this life that we live. Our very sufferings, he thinks, can draw us even closer to God, not because God likes suffering or insists on suffering for his people as a test or any other negative thing, but because when we suffer, we may still have the confidence that God has not abandoned us.

Later down the line, you will see that God says nothing can separate us from his love through Christ Jesus. Here in Chapters 5 and 6, Paul points out in many ways that even in our suffering, we know God’s presence within us. I hope you will find this session really inspiring, as well as enlightening.