

# BE A CHANNEL OF GOD'S LOVE

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*"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." - Romans 5:5*

On behalf of Linda and our family, we greet you all with a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Romans 5:5, the Apostle Paul reminded us that the moment we believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, two great things happened.

**First, God's love was poured into our hearts.** From the heart of God to our hearts, His love flows continuously. It is a never-ending source of love lavishly poured in our hearts. This divine love transforms us when we obey Christ. And it should compel us to share God's love to anyone and everyone we encounter daily.

**Second, God's Spirit dwelt in us. Prior to believing in Jesus Christ, we are all spiritually dead.** But the moment we repented of our sins and believed in His gospel we are made spiritually alive through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit did not only give us spiritual life, but He Himself dwells in us permanently.

It is through the Holy Spirit that God's unconditional love has been poured out lavishly into our hearts. The more we become a channel of God's love towards others, the deeper we experience Christ's love! Thus, the challenge for us is to be channels of God's love to anyone and everyone.

There are three crucial things to keep in mind about Jesus so we can be channels of God's love this Christmas and the coming New Year.

**First, Jesus is our hope, and He**

**will never fail.** *"And hope does not put us to shame..." - Romans 5:5a*

Our hope in Christ is sure because of His resurrection. It is guaranteed. It is not conditional. It is not dependent on our response to life's challenges. We who are in Christ, who have been born again, have all the reason to have hope in life because Jesus Christ has resurrected.

The Apostle Peter wrote, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).*

Reorient your mind to hope in Christ daily. Keep trusting God will fulfill all His promises. Then be at peace knowing God will work things out for the good of those who love Him.

**Second, Jesus will never fail us because his steadfast love holds us up.** *"...because God's love has been poured into our hearts..." - Romans 5:5b*

In life, problems, pressures, and predicaments are inevitable. We may not always see solutions to our problems, experience relief from pressures, and be delivered out of our predicaments, but one thing is sure—the steadfast love of Christ will hold us up all the way until the end.

The Psalmist wrote, *"If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. 18 When I thought, 'My foot slips,' your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up" (Psalm 94:17-18).*

Recount the goodness of God daily. Keep remembering the countless times God delivered you from difficult situations. Then praise God

for His steadfast love that helped you and held you up.

**And third, Jesus holds us up by the power of the Holy Spirit.** *"...through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." - Romans 5:5c*

The Holy Spirit was the power who raised Jesus from the dead; He also is the same power who gave spiritual life to our mortal bodies (Romans 8:11). And since the Holy Spirit dwells in us who believes in Jesus, He is the power who holds us up every moment.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).*

Recalibrate your walk with the Spirit daily. Keep striving to be right with God. Then be confident you will receive help in your time of need and the steadfast love of God will surely hold you up!

As you remember these things about Christ, who He is, how He works, and what He can do, may your Christmas celebrations be filled with peace, hope, and strength from God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

May you experience more of God's love lavishly poured into your hearts so that you and your loved ones will have peace when you face problems, hope when you are helpless, and strength when you are struggling.

This Christmas and the coming New Year may your home be a home where God's love abound! Again, a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone! ✨