

Romans 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Analysis

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand—the perfect tense *estēkamen* (ἐστήκαμεν) emphasizes the believer's secure, established position in grace. Christ is both the door (access) and the realm (grace) of Christian standing. The metaphor recalls court language: believers have *προσαγωγή* (*prosagōgē*), the right of approach to the divine King, a privilege purchased by Christ's blood.

And rejoice in hope of the glory of God (καυχώμεθα ἐπ' ἐλπίδι τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ)—the glory humanity lost through sin (3:23) becomes the believer's confident expectation. This is no uncertain wish but assured hope grounded in God's promises and Christ's resurrection. Paul's 'boasting' vocabulary shifts from forbidden human boasting (3:27) to exulting in God's gracious provision, echoing Jeremiah 9:23-24.

Historical Context

In the Greco-Roman world, 'access' (*prosagōgē*) was a technical term for introduction to royalty or deity—a privilege jealously guarded by social hierarchy. Paul democratizes this language: every believer, Jew or Gentile, slave or free, has immediate access to God through Christ. This would have been revolutionary to first-century readers familiar with temple courts that progressively restricted access based on gender, ethnicity, and ritual purity.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does standing 'in grace' differ from the performance treadmill of constantly trying to earn God's favor?
2. What does it mean to 'rejoice in hope' when hope is often dismissed as wishful thinking in our culture?
3. If believers already have unrestricted access to God through Christ, why do many Christians still feel distant from Him?

Interlinear Text

δι'	ἧ	καὶ	τὴν	προσαγωγὴν	ἐσχήκαμεν	τῇ	πίστει	εἰς
By	whom	also	G3588	access	we have	G3588	by faith	into
G1223	G3739	G2532		G4318	G2192		G4102	G1519
τὴν	χάριν	ταύτην	ἐν	ἧ	ἐστήκαμεν	καὶ	καυχώμεθα	
G3588	grace	G3778	wherein	whom	we stand	also	rejoice	
	G5485		G1722	G3739	G2476	G2532	G2744	
ἐπ'	ἐλπίδι	τῆς	δόξης	τοῦ	θεοῦ			
in	hope	G3588	of the glory	G3588	of God			
G1909	G1680		G1391		G2316			

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 2:18 (Parallel theme): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Ephesians 3:12 (Faith): In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

1 Corinthians 15:1 (Parallel theme): Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

Romans 12:12 (Hope): Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 Peter 3:18 (References God): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Hebrews 3:6 (Hope): But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

John 10:9 (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (Grace): Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Glory): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

John 5:24 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.