

Reasons for Boasting

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' Exodus 17.7

...but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope....
Romans 5.3

The Hebrews were delivered from Egypt, provided manna and quail, but after journeying in the desert and arriving at Rephedim, a resting place, they were out of sorts, quarreling and complaining, asking, *Is the Lord among us or not?* I get it! Our _____ can only take so much. The ancient Hebrews were ready to stone Moses due to their exhaustion and excessive thirst.

God was going to continue with His people sustaining them and bringing them through providing whatever their need may be. For He is the God of _____!

Jesus offered the Samaritan woman _____ water, *a spring of water gushing up to eternal life*. John 4.14 She finally recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the One Who was to come and bring hope to the world.

Our bodies cannot survive without sufficient blood, and our souls cannot endure without sufficient hope. For many folks, hope is nothing more than wishful thinking, "I hope I'll win the lottery." But in the context of the faith of Christ, Webster's dictionary has it right, for as a people of faith we " _____ with confidence" that God will fulfill His Promises.

As followers of Jesus, He is our hope, and He will _____ let us down! But what does it mean to say, "Jesus is our hope?"

We boast in the hope of God fulfilling His purpose in our lives: that is, we become _____ Jesus in that our minds are renewed in God's Word, our souls are restored to Christ's image, and our bodies are consecrated to doing His will.

Paul _____ us out of our complacency by telling us we are also to *boast in our afflictions!*

God's ultimate purpose in our suffering is to transform our character's into Christlikeness, so that we can _____ even as we are loved. To have Christ's character is to have hope, and hope does not disappoint us!

Suffering, character and hope are intertwined with _____ another.

We have _____ to boast So, let us boast, not in the things of this world, but in the things of Christ Who loved us and gave Himself for us! More than this God raised Him from the dead and now has poured His love into hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit.

