

THE GROWTH EQUATION

The Growth Equation

July 13, 2025 - Tom Matuszak

Romans 5:1-5 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory (rejoice) in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Maturing = (Perseverance + Hope) × Gratitude

>> It's hope in Jesus that fuels perseverance, and gratitude that multiplies the impact.

>> God calls us to grow...but we can't grow if we quit.

POINT ONE: PERSEVERANCE IS REQUIRED

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

>> Not every trial is from God, but God can grow you through every trial.

POINT TWO: HOPE IS OUR ANCHOR

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

>> Hope doesn't come from our ability to fix things; it comes from trusting in God's ability.

>> You're not just barely holding on; you're anchored in the One who holds it all.

Hebrews 6:18-19

So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.

POINT THREE: GRATITUDE IS THE MULTIPLIER

Romans 5:3-4

Not only so, but we also glory (rejoice) in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

>> The key to maturing through life's hardest seasons isn't just perseverance, it's choosing gratitude in the middle of the storm. Gratitude is the multiplier that turns pain into purpose and trials into transformation.

$(5+5) \times 1 = 10$

$(5+5) \times 5 = 50$

>> You will mature more when you learn to have gratitude even in tough times.

>> Gratitude doesn't necessarily change the situation or circumstances, but it changes your perspective.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

>> Gratitude reframes everything. It helps you see God's hand even when it hurts.

>> Maturity doesn't come by avoiding trials—but by persevering with hope and finding gratitude in the midst.

Maturing = (Perseverance + Hope) × Gratitude