

# MINING THE MESSAGE



<i>Title:</i>	<i>Freedom: Redefining Tension</i>	<i>Scripture:</i>	<i>Romans 5:1-11</i>
<i>Speaker:</i>	<i>Jeff Terrell</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>5/18/2025</i>
<i>Big Idea:</i>	<i>Faith empowers us to boast in the tensions of the gospel rather than run away from them!</i>		

## OUTLINE

1. The Tension of God and Salvation (1-2)
2. The Tension of God and Suffering (3-5)
3. The Tension of God and Sanctification (6-11)

## SEARCH

1. Read Romans 5:1-2. How did Pastor Jeff define “rejoice” in this passage? What were some of the tensions that Pastor Jeff described throughout the sermon? How does the concept of being “declared not guilty” (justified) through faith create a tension between our ongoing struggle with sin and our current standing before God?
2. Read Romans 5:3-5. How does this passage challenge the idea that suffering is always negative? How does it resolve the tension of suffering and sanctification? How does God’s love “poured out” in this process help your perspective?

## REFINE

1. Read Romans 5:3-5 and 1 Peter 1:6-9. Why is it important to have a biblically developed theology of suffering? What is the role of suffering in the sanctification process? How does suffering expose personal attachments or earthly hopes and help us mature spiritually?
2. Read Romans 5:6-11 and 2 Corinthians 5:20-21. How does Paul describe our condition when Christ died for us? Why is this tension important for understanding the depth of God’s love? What does it mean to be “reconciled” to God?

## LIVE

1. What suffering are you currently anxious about? How do you determine whether this anxiety is godly or sinful? How can you utilize Pastor Jeff’s tool from the sermon to discern this anxiety? How can you use this opportunity of suffering to grow in Christ?
2. What theological tensions have you been running away from? How would investing in this tension help you grow in your understanding of God? How would this help you grow in understanding the magnificence and abundance of God’s love?