

Rejoice In Hope Romans 12:12

Some Christian go through life sadden, wishing things were better
Others are joyful, steadfast in doing good, even in hardship
Joyful, steadfast Christian has discovered secret of **Romans 12:12**

The Joyful Life Is Based On Hope

Many have wrong concept concerning "joy"

That joy is a matter of personal temperament (one's heredity)

That joy is a matter of circumstances (one's environment)

But joyfulnes commanded of all - **1Thessalonians 5:16; Philippians 4:4; 1Peter 4:13**

True joy able rise above circumstances of life

Seen in the example of the Hebrews - **Hebrews 10:34**

Also in the example of Christians in Asia Minor - **1Peter 1:6**

This because the key to joy is "hope" "rejoicing IN HOPE"

Student, hope enjoying summer vacation, happy as thinks

Strong hope gave Hebrews joy despite property seizure - **Hebrews 10:34**

Source of these Christians' joy was hope of salvation - **1Peter 1:5-6**

To be joyful in life, we must have hope!

If Christians not joyful, it is because they are not full of hope! Minds preoccupied with this life,
religious enough to be miserable!

Spend time contemplating our hope as Christians, joy will follow!

Of course, hope is based upon faith - **Hebrews 11:1**

And faith comes from the Word of God - **Romans 10:17**

People don't read Word, faith weak, hope shallow, joy minimal

God's Word produce faith for strong hope, joy no matter circumstances

Life Of Joyful Hope Patient In Tribulations

First, let's define our terms...

"patient" - Means more than simply enduring, forbearing

It also takes in the thought of activity despite the hardship

It is continuing to do good, regardless of the trials

Not just sitting there, refraining from doing something bad

"tribulations" - These could be trials suffered for the cause of Christ

Or those common to all (sickness, death, etc)

Paul is talking about pressing on doing good despite hardships

Key to such patience is "joyful hope"

This can be illustrated in several ways. Why does...

Athlete - training? Joyful hope of victory!

Pilgrims - sailing across ocean? Joyful hope of religious freedom!

College student - study & exams? Joyful hope of successful career!

Early Christians - persecutions, pressing on faithfulness Christ? Joyful hope of their inheritance in
heaven! - **Hebrews 10:34**

Explains why some do not remain steadfast when things get rough?

Do not have "joyful hope" Minds preoccupied with worldly things!

Lives Will Be As Hopeful, Joyful, Patient, As Prayerful

"Continuing steadfastly in prayer" essential! - **1Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Relationship between prayer and joyful life is implied elsewhere

If we pray without ceasing, we can rejoice always!

Proper prayer, constantly reminded of HOPE source of joy, patience

Made constantly aware of reason for hope (forgiveness of sins)

Made constantly aware of object of hope (be with God eternally)

So "*pray without ceasing!*" Is this possible?

Not if we mean formal words of supplication and petition

Prayer does not always have to be formal words - **1Chronicles 5:20**

Prayer can also be: A mental attitude of devotion; An unspoken reference to God in all that we do

Are our lives as joyful and productive as they should be?

If not, let God's Word sink into hearts: "Continue steadfastly prayer"

Do this, more likely "rejoice in hope" & be "patient in tribulations"!

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