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Romans 12:12, **“Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;...”**

The Apostle Paul, in his instruction and admonition to the Roman brethren, continues in verse 12 with three vitally important statements which every child of God needs to take to heart. First, he reminds them to rejoice; and not only rejoice, but do so in hope. He told them in Romans 5:5 that, **“hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”** When we stop and realize that our hope is based on nothing less than Jesus Christ and His righteousness, then we have much to rejoice about. It is His imputed righteousness which makes us worthy of abiding one day in Paradise with our Lord and Saviour. Knowing what Christ has done for us in saving us from our sins by the shedding of His blood upon the cross of Calvary is the reason that our Hope is so strong.

Once we realize the deliverance of God’s children, and have that assurance in our hearts that He died for us, then we can face any trial, tribulation, heartache, pain, or suffering which comes our way. Paul told the Romans in chapter 5, verse 3, that **“...we glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience;...”** We have a blessed promise that Christ will be with us in every tribulation, even to the point we are made able **“to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”** (II Corinthians 1:4). We all know it hurts to lose a loved one. However, with a strong Hope in Jesus Christ our redeemer, we can rejoice knowing our loved one is singing praises in the portals of Heaven.

Though our hope is made strong by an active faith in the mercy and grace of a loving Lord which causes us to rejoice and to be able to withstand in the evil day, we still need the strength, peace and comfort that can only come through pouring out our souls to the Lord in regular, sincere prayer. Paul knew this and admonishes the Roman church to **“pray”**. He told them in Romans 1:9 that **“without ceasing I**

make mention of you always in my prayers:” He cared enough about them to pray for them. That is the highest gift anyone of us is able to give, the gift of our prayers. Then, in Romans 15:30, Paul expressed his need for their prayers - **“Now I beseech you, brethren for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;...”** To tell them that he desires their prayers is the ultimate compliment and the giving of respect.

Here in Romans 12:12, Paul was again instructing them to stay firm in their faith which would give them solid ground for their hope, causing them to rejoice, and then realize the necessity to pray for themselves and also for him and the cause of Christ. The Psalmist David, in a like time of being cast down due to tribulations said, ***“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.”*** (Psalm 42:11). Remember, because we have a hope which is based on a Saviour who was able to finish the work which God sent Him to do, we can pray fervently with the knowledge that He hears our petitions which causes us to rejoice greatly. Think About It!