

July 2, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Rom. 12:12 *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* (NIV)

As we go deeper into the abundant life that the LORD has for us, we begin to experience the love of God more and more. We are able to walk in His love and share it with others. We see in this verse, a love that is positive and persistent. This is the love of the Father that never quits, never gives up and in fact, grows stronger in adversity. So Paul is reminding us that we are to be *joyful in hope*. This is a two-fold admonishment. There is an ultimate hope that we are looking forward to in Heaven, but there is also the understanding that we can rejoice in hope right now as we live our lives out for Him. In Heaven, everything will be perfect, but here and now, not so much. Even so, we can abide in the joy of the LORD. **Neh. 8:10 *Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our LORD. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*** (NIV)

This love is *patient in affliction*. In other words, no matter what the circumstances are, we keep our focus on the ultimate prize. We look to the time when all things will be made new, and we will be celebrating in the presence of the King of Glory. What is really inside of us comes out when we are squeezed. May it be that when those times of adversity arrive, we are continuing to abide in the LORD and in the power of His might.

Lastly, we are to be *faithful in prayer*. This is our connection that must not be severed. Perhaps you have been through this scenario: You are doing something important on your computer and then the internet goes down. You call your provider and find out that a cable has been cut during some type of construction and that the connection will not be fixed until much later. This can be frustrating at best. So, you resort to your cell phone or some other way of getting to the information that you need. Our best connection with the Father is prayer. He is always available, 24/7. So often we look everywhere for answers instead of going to the One Who is The Answer! Prayer is a discipline that grows stronger with continual use. You will never wear out your welcome in the Holy Place.

Dear LORD, help us to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer. We desire to live with You on our hearts and our minds. May Your joy and hope carry us through the times of difficulty and struggle. In Jesus Name, Amen