



Many Reasons to Rejoice **Romans 12:9-21**

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer (Romans 12:12—KJV).

Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer (Romans 12:12—NASB).

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer (Romans 12:12—NRSV).

In Philippians 4:4, Paul wrote: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” and in Romans 12:12, “Rejoice in hope.” Because of their faith, Christians rejoice in the hope that Jesus gives. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, and as Christians pray and learn more about Jesus’ plans for them in the future the Holy Spirit strengthens their faith in Jesus. We hope for what we have not yet seen or experienced; however, Christians rejoice in hope with the certain knowledge that Jesus has gone into heaven to prepare a place specifically suited to each person. But more than going to a happy place after death, Christians rejoice because in the future they will see Jesus and remain forever with Him and all who love Him. Furthermore, our mental, moral, spiritual, and physical brokenness will be completely healed by Jesus, and He will prepare all who love Him to reign with Him in a new heaven and earth. Therefore, when Christians rejoice in hope, they also have good reasons for patience when they are suffering any

affliction, persecution, or tribulation. They know their afflictions produce endurance and they will achieve an eternal glory that far outweighs their earthly sufferings. In addition to knowing many reasons for rejoicing and being patient when suffering, through prayer Christians can have instant fellowship and communication with God, and by remaining faithful and persistent in prayer, God will sustain them moment-by-moment no matter what is happening to them or around them. We have a command from our loving God to keep the lines of communication open between Him and us through prayer, which reveals God's great love for us and His desire to help us.

Thinking Further

1. Complete this command: Be joyful in _____, patient in _____, faithful in _____.
2. Give four reasons a Christian can be joyful every day.
3. Name four things a Christian should do faithfully each day.
4. Remembering what you have learned from the Bible, how might you encourage a Christian who is suffering persecution.
5. How did Paul say a Christian should treat his enemies? In your own words, why should a Christian treat his enemies in this way?