

Remnant Life Church
September 28, 2014

**“Lessons by Paul:
The Building Blocks of Family Fellowship -
Part 3”**

Romans 12:12

Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer. (NASB)

- There are three specific, complete thoughts in this verse
- It provides us with 3 huge building blocks for the fellowship of our family
- These are actually keys to a joyful, productive life in God
 - This is not to say that everything goes well without trials
 - We have spoken of that often knowing that our circumstances are not an indicator of God’s love for us
 - His love is consistent – it is sin and, as a result, evil in the world that brings the times of trial and difficulty
- So how is it that some Christians have a demeanor that is so foul and negative while others always seem to see only the good and positive?
- Romans 12:12 is that formula
 - Paul links these same types of important aspects in two other places in this letter to the church in Rome
 - Hope, tribulation, and perseverance in **5:3-5**
 - Hope, perseverance, and prayer in **8:24-26**
 - David Lloyd-Jones – “Tribulation, hope and prayer always go together in the New Testament and it is a very good way of testing ourselves to ask whether they always go together in our own experience - because they should.”
- The joyful life is based on hope and it is in hope through Jesus Christ that we find our joy – (A cyclical truth)
 - a. There is no aspect of our lives that, in and of itself and apart from Jesus Christ, can bring us lasting hope
 - b. Everything of ourselves is fleeting – abilities, our intellect, our possessions, our appearance, even life itself
 - c. Only what Jesus did for us because of God’s eternal love is everlasting – that is the ONLY source of true hope
 - d. George Foreman – *God In My Corner* : "The truth is, my relationship with God is the reason I have such a positive outlook on life. Before I found Christ I was blind...but when Jesus came into my life, He opened my eyes and started showing me all the good things that I couldn't see previously. God changed my heart and altered the way I view everything. Granted it is possible to think positively

without having Jesus in your heart. But without him, you'll never have His lasting perspective on the issues you're dealing with or going through. For those who love Him, He has promised to make something good out of everything that happens to us-- that right there is the reason I can have a positive attitude in every situation."

- Examine the two important words:
 - **Rejoicing** – is in the present tense meaning it is ongoing and active right now regardless of the exterior events of our lives
 - That type of joy can only be realized through the supernatural intervention of the Holy Spirit
 1. Active rejoicing is not determined by your temperament; by the external circumstances of your life; or a phony who forces a fake smile that fools no one coupled with a lie that says “I’m fine.”
 2. Joy is not self-sustaining nor is it perpetual – it must have an element of life-giving force – that is what we know, what we have, as a Christian
 - a. It is the gift of life and forgiveness of our sins (6:23)
 - b. It is the promise of His presence in our lives (Deut. 31:6)
 - c. It is the knowledge of His coming again and the promise we have been given of Heaven (John 14:2-3)
 3. The activity of rejoicing in the face of any circumstance is a choice we are given but is born out of a promise we are assured of.
 4. Biblical joy is a solid undercurrent that is not affected by the surface storms of life.
 - **Hope** – an anticipation of what lies ahead
 - To the world it is wishful thinking
 - To the Christian it is known with assurance
 - We don’t have hope; hope has us
 - It is a vital component of the Christian’s walk and without it dooms us to a life of depression and despair
 - 167 times in the scriptures
 - Hope is given by God to each of us
 - **Rom. 15:13** - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
 - His very nature is that of hope (8:20)
 - He is the supplier of Hope; our resource
 - He instigated the Great Hope by sending His Son to die for our sins
 - In the original language the word hope has the article with it so that it reads:
 - “May the God of THE hope”

- **Rom. 4:18-21** - *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*
- When we fully trust in Him He then gives us an abundance or overflow of hope – not by our doing but by the power of the Holy Spirit
- Where do you place your hope?
 - If it is in anything other than the promises of God for all eternity then actually have no hope
 - Jesus never used that word
 - Jesus did not speak of hope, he WAS and IS our hope
 - Our ONLY hope is in the person of Jesus Christ (bracelet)
 - Paul understood hope – he had to because of the circumstances that he found himself in but he never lost his hope because it was through the power of the Holy Spirit that he persevered...

Next Week:

Part 2 of the verse - *Persevering in tribulation*