

When Life is Hard
Romans 12:12 / (p. 976)

1. Find joy in your _____ – v.12a

2. Be patient in your _____ – v.12b

• Romans 5:2-5 - 2 Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Pain does not negate the reality of God's love for us, it confirms it. Pain breeds vulnerability. It opens the door for us to take a closer look inward and upward.

3. Remain faithful in _____ – v.12c

ONE THING

When you experience pain in this life, ask yourself these three questions:

1. Am I hitched to (or hoping in) anything or anyone outside of Christ to find happiness?
2. Am I trusting in God to work all things out for His good?
3. Is my pain taking me to my knees in prayer?

At Home Study Guide

For the week of August 11, 2019

Romans 12:12

Romans 12 is Paul's challenge to live out the theology he writes about in Romans 1-11. As we tackle this chapter over eight weeks, remember that the ability to live out the Christian life comes from what God has done in us, as Paul explains in chapters 1-11.

1. In verse 12 Paul addresses difficulties with three phrases. The first phrase literally means that hope leads the Christian to rejoice. In your difficulties, how has your hope in God brought about joy?

2. Leon Morris also writes that this second phrase, be patient in tribulation, is an active statement. In serious trouble the Christian actively endures. In what ways do you or others you know need to actively endure?

3. Be constant in prayer is also an active statement, one that undergirds the first two. As you think about this verse, spend some time in prayer, consistently, over difficult situations for which God leads you to pray.

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