

9.

Rejoice in hope...

Romans 12:12a

To rejoice is to *celebrate*. To rejoice in hope is to celebrate what God has done and what God will do - despite whatever circumstances we are going through. This is the essence of *hope*. Hope says that God has better times ahead for us.

Ultimately, our resurrection is the greatest result of our hope (First Peter 1:3, 13).

1. Note Romans 5:1-5? Based on this passage, why should we have hope and how is this hope developed?

2. The world is subject to futility (disappointment, disaster, pain, suffering, loss) by God (Romans 8:20). Based on Ephesians 2:12, how is the Christian better able to handle life's futility?

3. How is God described in Romans 15:13? How does Paul say we can abound in this attribute of God?

The Christian life is different from merely being a 'religious' person. When we are converted, we are 'regenerated' by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). This causes us to see the world differently - not just as an alternate view to the way it is generally seen - we are enabled to see it as it truly is! This view enables us to see God as ruling and reigning. But the Christian life is more than just a moment of conversion. It is also an ongoing transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the believer (Romans 15:13).

4. What is the greatest source of our hope? (Romans 15:4)

5. In what way is our hope in God an opportunity to share Christ with those who do not know Him? (1Peter 3:15)

6. How is *rejoicing* different for the Christian than the non-Christian? (Phil. 3:1)

Amen.