



Jenny Barthow/Integral Alliance

Romans 12:12 – 13

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality'

We can be joyful in HOPE!

We do not need to despair that things have not happened the way we would have liked, we do not need to pause while we wait, we can be active in our waiting and our hoping. In order to be patient in affliction, we must believe not only that there will be an end to affliction, but also that God can work through our afflictions to bring about the Kingdom.

WHEN we share with the Lord's people and practice hospitality, we find the joy that we often look for in material goods and societal markers of success. Ironically, there is more joy to be found in serving one another than in striving for wealth, fame, or acclaim. Serving others should only, however, be done alongside looking after ourselves. We must remember to nurture our own lives and our own families. There is wisdom in self-care!

If we take this command seriously, however, we know that despite the world's many injustices we can be joyful in our hoping, patient in our pain, and faithful, believing that God will do what we cannot.

PRAYER

'God of all hope, we know all too well a world of betrayal, despair, exclusion, and conflict. May we live into your alternative world of truth, hope, welcome, and harmony as we trust and follow you. Amen'⁷



⁷Walter Brueggemann, *A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent* page 85.