

# Rejoicing In Hope

Sermon Title: **Rejoicing In Hope**

Sermon Number: **7559**

Speaker: **C. Elijah Bronner**

Links to sermon– *MP3 is best sound quality and works on all smart phones, computers, music and MP3 players, Windows Media Version is fastest download:*

MP3 Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/7559.mp3>

Windows Media Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/s/7559.wma>



[BrothersofTheWord.com](http://BrothersofTheWord.com)

Thank you for joining Brothers Of The Word because brother you need the word! We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at [brothersoftheword.com](http://brothersoftheword.com) thank you so much for tuning in today and stay tuned for today's message.

I would like to share a little humor. Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. And wanting to mail a letter he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said if you will come to the church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven. The little boy replied: I don't think I will be there, you don't even know your way to the post office. That's a true story that happened early in his ministry.

Well I want to talk today from something, I was actually in my daughter's room, a few weeks ago. My daughter is, this is my middle daughter, Elisha. And she has done something sort of odd and unusual that I haven't seen any of my other children do. She took a great interest in God's word, and she has devoured the word like I have never seen before. I looked at her bible and her bible had been thoroughly read, and all passages just about on every page had been highlighted. She had notes on post it stamps on each page. I mean her bible was like a commentary. I said man I can get some good preaching stuff just out of her notes. She just turned 18 years old and I was just amazed at her grasp of the scriptures. And I told her, I said honey I was 30 or 40 years old before I learned the bible like you have at your age, and that's amazing. I was just so pleased and so happy to see her have an interest and such a knowledge and understanding of God's word.

And she went a step further. She had taken selected verses that she has picked up over the course of her reading and studying the word. And she put selected verses on index cards. And she put them on the door of her bedroom. And she has probably 65 or 70 powerful life filled verses on the door of her bedroom. And they are so good I find myself when I am wearied and worn out, I find myself just standing in front of her door. Just refreshing myself on God's word. Just renewing my mind. I mean there are sometimes when I feel like giving out and feel like giving up, and I just go stand in front of her door. And she has already selected 65 or 70 victorious life changing reminders from God's word. And as I was standing there a few weeks ago in one of those moments, I was going over all of the scriptures and just reminiscing and smiling. There was one particular scripture that I really didn't know was in the bible myself and I was somewhat ashamed. [laughter]

And the neat thing about the way she has them, she has them in different translations. So it may be a familiar scripture, but it speaks to you differently because she used different versions of the bible. In this particular verse, it was concise, it was short, it was to the point. But it was a powerful little verse. And I

kept looking at it, and every time I would go back to her door, I would always look at that verse. That verse has been haunting me for a long time. And I just couldn't get rid of that verse. And I said one day I'm going to preach that verse. This is a good verse. I said thank you Elisha. This is some good stuff you got here. [laughter]

The verse is Romans 12:12. The verse is Romans 12:12. She had it written on an index card from the NIV bible. The NIV translation. In the NIV translation it reads this way, it says: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. And that's all it said. Just those three lines. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. And I just want to use as a subject, Rejoicing In Hope. Rejoicing In Hope. Another translation says let your hope be a joy to you. Let hope keep you joyful. As I started meditating on this verse and thinking about this verse that had been haunting me a long time, I began to see a connection between hope and joy. It says let your hope be a joy to you or let hope keep you joyful. If you are not joyful, it means you are not operating in hope. You don't have any hope. It's our hope that leads us to joy. And I began to see the connection there of be joyful in hope. Be joyful in hope. Be joyful in hope.

So in order to be joyful in life we must have hope. To be joyful in life we must have hope. That's a powerful secret there that is contained there in Romans 12:12. That it's our hope that gives us joy in life. It's our hope that gives us joy in life. Hope is defined as an eager or happy anticipation of something good. And I began to see why that would give you joy. Hope is an eager or happy anticipation of something good. That's what hope is. It's an eager or happy anticipation of something good. So the bible says be joyful in hope. In other words it is letting you know folks you all have something good coming to you. Because you are a child of God, because you are a son or daughter of God, because you are the people of God you can be joyful in hope.

You can be joyful in hope. There is good coming to you. There is good coming to you. Oh man you can be joyful in hope. You can be joyful in hope. It's the eager happy anticipation of something good. It's the eager happy anticipation of something good. Rejoice in your hope. It's the eager happy anticipation of something good. Legendary coach Lou Holtz said everybody needs four things in life. He said everybody needs four things in life. He said everybody needs something to do. Everybody needs someone to love. Everybody needs something to believe in. Everybody needs something to look forward to. That's your hope. That's that hope. That's the eager happy anticipation of something good. Hope. Everybody needs something to look forward to.

My youngest daughter, my four year old, and this actually happened back when she was three years old. At her daycare they have something they do in the summer months when it is particularly hot. They have something that they call Water Day. And it's when they allow the kids to put their swimsuits on under their clothes, and

they let them go outside and they turn the water on all over them. And they just run around and have them screaming and having fun on Water Day. And so, on the very first one my little girl woke up and she said It's Water Day today!!! She said it's Water Day!!! I didn't know what Water Day meant, but she said it's Water Day today! And she got her swimming suit and put it on, and got her towel and got dressed. And my wife took her to school and my wife said when she walked in she told the principal: It's Water Day today!!! It's Water Day!!!

And she said there were teachers standing out in the hallway. My little girl walked down the hall and she told every teacher: It's Water Day today!!! It's Water Day today!!! Folks that's that eager and happy anticipation of something good. Rejoice in hope! Rejoice in hope! Rejoice in hope! Rejoice in hope! You have got to have something that you are looking for. You have got to be looking for the goodness of God to be revealed in your life. Folks I am so excited! I am so excited about what God is doing! I am so excited about what God has for me! I am so excited about what God has planned! Folks you haven't seen anything yet. God has some wonderful things for your life. He hasn't even begun to use you yet. He hasn't even deposited everything that he has in you yet. Oh man, it's an exciting time. Rejoice in hope! Rejoice in hope!

If you are depressed. If you don't like life. If you don't like to get out of the bed in the morning, it means you have no hope. It means something is wrong with your hope. You have no eager anticipation of something good. You have a hope problem. Leo said this, he said don't brood. He said get on with living and loving because you don't have forever. I didn't know what brood meant so I went and looked it up. Brood means when you are constantly recalling over and over in your mind all of your past hurts, and failures and wounds, and that's all you are thinking about. And that will put you in deep gloom. He says don't brood. Folks that's a waste of spirit. That's a waste of life. That's a waste of time. No, don't brood. Get on with living and loving because you don't have forever. Folks don't let offenses hold you down. Don't get involved with ill feelings and angry and mad at someone. That's a waste of time. We don't have forever folks. Get busy living and loving. Get busy living and loving.

You need to be joyful in hope. Start thinking about the good things God has in store for you. Start thinking about what God is doing in the earth. You need to be joyful in hope. So if you don't want to get out of bed in the morning, and you are not excited about life, check your hope. You need to be joyful in hope. Be joyful in hope. In the Charlie Brown cartoon, the Peanuts cartoons, one day Lucy and Linus were sitting in the den watching television. And Linus was getting up getting ready to go to the kitchen, and Lucy said bring me back a glass of water. And Linus said why should I do anything for you, you have never done anything for me. And Lucy said I tell you what, on your 75<sup>th</sup> birthday I'll bake you a cake. And Linus happily went on into the kitchen to get her water. He said life is more pleasant when you have

something to look forward to. You have got to be joyful in hope. You have got to be joyful. It's an eager happy anticipation of good. Folks I have got a news flash for you, God is not out to hurt you. God is not out to harm you. God is out to do you good. God is out to do you good.

He declares in Jeremiah 29:11, For I know the plans that I have for you said the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you. To give you a hope and a future. To give you a hope and a future. And God is saying I want you to expect something good. God is a good God. God is a good God. The bible says in James 1:17, every good and perfect gift is from above from the father of light, in whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning. God is good and he is deposed to show favors and to do good to his people. He hasn't changed and he has always been good. He is still good. He will forever be good. And because God is good, because he is good and because he loves you, folks you can rest assure that he only has good in store for your life. And that is the reason we can rejoice in hope. Folks we can rejoice in hope because our sins have been forgiven by the blood of Jesus. We can rejoice in hope because our names are written in the lamb's book of life. We can rejoice in hope because we have the holy spirit. We can rejoice in hope. We can rejoice in hope. We can rejoice in hope.

What a wonderful hope you have. You can rejoice in hope because all of the promises of God are yes and amen to you. You can rejoice in hope. Rejoice in hope. Rejoice. Rejoice. Rejoice. Be excited about God's plan for us and what he has in store. There was an experiment that was done years ago. They took a group of rats and put them in a container of water. And they put them in a completely dark and isolated room. They wanted to see how long these rats would swim and survive before they drowned. And these rats in this completely dark room, they swam for about two hours and then they drowned. And then they took another group of rats and put them in a dark room in a container of water. Same way, but this time they left the door open with a slight crack. So a little ray of light could come in. Those rats swam for over 20 hours, simply because they had a hope. They saw light. They saw light. They saw light. And there was hope. Folks rejoice in hope. And so that's why he wrote this in Romans, people were going through a hard time. It was dark. It was dark. And he said rejoice in hope. Rejoice in hope. Your hope will keep you going. Your hope will keep you going. Rejoice in hope. Be patient in affliction. And be faithful in prayer.

Turn to your neighbor and say rejoice in hope. Rejoice. Rejoice. Rejoice in hope. Rejoice in hope. I found a neat scripture in Jeremiah, chapter 32. You don't have to turn there. Jeremiah, chapter 32 and verse 40 in the NIV bible. It says, this is something powerful, this is one of those...another verse I didn't really know was in the bible. Jeremiah, chapter 32 verse 40 in the NIV. It says: I will make an everlasting covenant with them. God talking about his people. I will make an everlasting covenant. Pastor Nathaniel has been preaching on the nine parts of

covenant. I will make an everlasting covenant with them. I want you to hear the heart of God. I will never stop doing good to them. I will rejoice in doing them good. Folks, that is an eternal covenant. Whew! I wish I had somebody that would just see that a little bit. That's an eternal covenant. He said I make an everlasting covenant with you. I will never stop doing you good. Now, that doesn't mean he won't punish you. He will have to slap your leg with the switch every once in a while when you mess up.

But God has made an everlasting covenant. This is a covenant that can't be broken. He can't change it even if he wanted to. He said I will make an everlasting covenant with them. I will never stop doing you good. I will never stop doing you good. Folks, next time when you have lost your hope you remember that verse. I'll never stop doing you good. Oh man, just rejoice in that a little bit. Rejoice. Rejoice in that. Oh man, rejoicing in hope. Rejoicing in hope. This happy eager anticipation of good. The Apostle Paul said to live as Christ. He was rejoicing in hope. He was rejoicing in hope. To be filled with Christ. To serve him. To have him living in me. To carry out his purposes. To be one with him. He said to live as Christ. He was rejoicing in hope. He was excited about life. He said to live as Christ. Folks if you are not excited about life, you have lost sight of the purposes of God. You have lost sight of your relationship with God. You have lost sight of the fact that God is good, and his promises are true. You have lost sight of our eternal Christian hope if you are not excited about life.

Here are a few things that will help you in rejoicing in hope. Spend time with God. Spend time with God and reconnect with your purpose. Spend time with God.

Number 2: Every day expect God's goodness.

Number 3: Speak favorable things over your life. I have a list of things that I say every day from God's word. Every day I say that I am crowned with loving kindness and tender mercies. Every day I say that. Every day I say his favor surrounds me as a shield. Every day I say goodness and mercy chase me everywhere I go. And every day I say his blessings overtake me. Then I say the angel of the Lord encamped round about me to deliver me. Folks speak favorable things over your life. Every day I say I'm blessed getting up. When I get up every morning, I'm blessed getting up and when I go to bed, I'm blessed laying down. I'm blessed when I walk out my kitchen door. I put my hand up to my mouth, and I make an announcement saying I'm blessed going out. And when I get home I say Honey, I'm home, I'm blessed coming in.

You are blessed coming in, you are blessed going out. You are blessed in the city. You are blessed in the field. You are blessed in your baskets and in your store houses. You are blessed. The fruit of your womb is blessed. Speak favorable things. That's rejoicing in hope when you speak. See that has you looking. Because I speak those things I am constantly looking. I'm constantly looking. The other day when I went out I saw that goodness hitting. I said yeah that's it, I have been speaking

that. I saw it hitting. I went into one store and had bought two juices. The man said something is wrong with my cash register and I can only charge you for one. I said that's the goodness of God, don't question it. I said ring it up. I said that's the goodness of God; don't question what he is doing. [laughter] I left there and I met somebody for lunch, and I got ready to pay and they said no you are not paying today, I'm paying today. I said I'm not going to question it because that is the goodness of God. His goodness is chasing me everywhere I go. Folks speak favorable things over your life. Expect God's goodness. Expect God's favor. God is good and he has made a covenant of goodness with you so that we can rejoice in hope. Rejoice in hope!

Praise God! Hallelujah! Thank you Lord God. Thank you Jesus! Hallelujah! He has made a covenant with you. He has made an everlasting covenant. I'll never stop doing you good. I'll never stop doing you good. He has made a covenant. Turn to your neighbor and say I have a covenant. I'll never stop doing you good. Even when you do wrong and get out of line, God's correction is doing you good. His correction is even doing you good. I'll never stop doing you good. Rejoice in hope. I didn't get a chance to get into being patient in affliction. And neither did I get a chance to get into being faithful in prayer. I'll pick up on those on Thursday night. [laughter] Praise God. Expect God's goodness. Who wouldn't want to serve a God like this. Hallelujah to Jesus. Thank you Lord God. Thank you Lord God. Praise God.