

Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes

Be!

By Mary Kane

www.onlybyprayer.com



Take a moment to quiet yourself before the Lord. Ask and receive forgiveness and grace for any sin He brings to mind. Now ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit and open your mind to the Scriptures.

Please read Romans 12:9-13

Please write the 3 commands that are recorded in verse 9.

We are to love without hypocrisy, abhor evil and cling to good.

Hypocrisy: a theater term meaning to act a part.

Abhor: dislike, to separate oneself from, horror of something

Cling: glue, fasten, cement

Separating myself from evil and gluing myself to good are relatively easy to do, but loving someone I don't like without faking it—impossible! It is impossible an impossible task...unless I ask God to pour His *agapeo* love into my heart for those whom I find hard to love. Loving the unlovely is a challenge and I have to constantly ask for His filling, but I'm here to witness that it works.

According to verse 10 and 11 what are we to do?

Which of those things is hardest for you to do and why?

Now please fill in the missing words for verses 12 and 13:

1. Rejoicing in _____. The word used for *hope* in this verse is *elpis* which means "expectation of good, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation, the author of hope, he who is its foundation." As Christians we always have a reason to be hopeful because we always have Jesus, who is the God of Hope.
2. _____ in tribulation. The Greek word for *patient* is *hypomeno* which means "to remain behind or tarry, to not recede or flee." When all others have given up on Jesus because of hard circumstances, God instructs us not leave your faith in Christ, even if it means standing alone. Therefore, don't give up on your family, your friends, your work in Christ, your marriage, your children, your faith or that situation that continues to be a problem. Be patient in tribulation; God is working His will on your behalf.
3. _____ in prayer. The one Greek word used for *continuing steadfastly* in this verse is *proskartereō* which means "to be devoted or constant, to give unremitting care to a thing, to be courageous, to be in constant readiness for." One of my friend's sons recently enlisted in the army. I was surprised to find out that during boot camp he had to sleep with his gun. This procedure was required so the soldiers would learn to be constantly ready for danger. God calls us to do the same thing; to be constantly ready for prayer.

Verse 13 gives us two final commands: to be given to hospitality and to see to the needs of the saints.

Of all the commands we've read in this passage of Scripture which will you commit to working on this day?

Pray for God to give you the opportunities and strength you need to accomplish your task. Continue following Jesus with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

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