

## Three Ways to Be When Times Are Tough

**Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12 ESV**

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The original word order helps form and inform us.

1. In hope, rejoicing.
2. In tribulation, enduring.
3. In prayer, persevering.

### Observations in the text:

Hope is the power of being cheerful in circumstances which we know to be desperate.

Tribulation comes from the Greek word *thlipsis*, which is translated *affliction, distress, anguish, or trouble*. The ESV translates it as “pressure” when Jesus warns of spiritual shallowness. (Mark 4:17).

Perseverance means to be steadfast or to endure. The encouragement to “persevere in prayer” means “to be courageously persistent,” or “to hold tight and not let go.”

### Applications from this text:

Each of these ways of being \_\_\_\_\_ to the other.

These are virtues, and virtues must be \_\_\_\_\_, they must be done over and over again, so they become natural for us.

William Wilberforce said, “Nothing is more central or essential to the life of the believer than \_\_\_\_\_.”

Throughout our lives as believers we sense our \_\_\_\_\_. Because of that we live in \_\_\_\_\_ on God.

Prayer reminds God’s children of their \_\_\_\_\_ (hope) when they are experiencing the furnace of affliction.

To be devoted to prayer is to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ bring everything before God.

### The Story of Ruby Bridges

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If you would like to talk this week about what it means to have a relationship with Christ, please email me at [Frank.Lewis@Nashvillefirst.org](mailto:Frank.Lewis@Nashvillefirst.org).