



**Sermon Outline
November 4, 2023
Pastor Bryan Myers**

When Life Gets Hard

Romans 12:12

Review of Practical Faith Lessons:

- #1 - Live a life _____ surrendered to Christ.
- #2 - Align your thinking with God's truth.
- #3 - Allow grace to keep you humble in your relationships.
- #4 - Follow Jesus synergistically in community like a body.
- #5 - Authentic love is a necessity.
- #6 - Spiritual disciplines are essential in bringing your soul to a boil.

Lesson #7 - University of Practical Faith

Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

A challenging reality bookended by two life hacks:

* **Life hack #1 – Be _____ expectant.**

"Be joyful in hope"

* **Christians should be _____ joyfully expectant people on the planet.**

** Hope is the place you need to start from. If you don't start from a place of hope, it will be almost impossible to get there.*

Hebrews 12:2 - ...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

* **A challenging reality: _____ things do happen to God's people.**

"patient in affliction"

*** Life is hard, and then you _____.**

James 5:11 - As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

1. When you experience doubt, choose _____.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Speak truth to the lies of _____, pervasiveness, and permanence.

** Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. - Helen Keller*

Romans 8:18 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

* **Life hack #2 – Keep on _____.**

"faithful in prayer"

* **Praying sometimes involves holding on to _____ when it appears God is no longer holding on to you.**

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

* **Prayer isn't how you _____ God. It's where you surrender control to Him.**

Matthew 6:10 - Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Helpful companion resources to the Bible:

Hope - *The Hope Quotient* – Ray Johnston

Affliction - *The One Truth* – Jon Gordon

Prayer - *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools* - Tyler Staton