“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” with Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” with Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_lRI0E>

“Who Am I?” with Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBcqria2wmg>

“Break Every Chain” with Jesus Culture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtyVdC7E6Wo>

“No Longer Slaves” with Jonathan David and Melissa Helser

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

“Rejoice” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUDORD6GS1M>

“Nothing is Impossible” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzPpsOBFalE>

“He Did It Again” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu6RM5KkaiM>

“Only You Jesus” with Ada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdQINUBlPno>

“Power Flow” with Monique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3qjvU4ensk>

“Everything Has Changed” with Onos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7k-T3DVppA>

“You Are Awesome in This Place” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrYDGJXNifc>

“Again, I Say Rejoice” with Israel Houghton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUBZF5_aWFU>

“Your Presence is Heaven to Me” with Israel Houghton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQAwpMFS_9o>

“This is Your Season” with Sinach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ObfR2sGaf4>

**Rejoicing in Hope**

***Romans 12:10-13; Romans 5***

 Praise the Lord! How’s it going? Today’s Bible Study is simply about rejoicing in hope.

 In a list of encouraging things to be in the body of Christ, Paul exhorts us to *be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality, Romans 12:10-13.*

 R*ejoicing in hope* stood out to me. Why should we talk about rejoicing in hope when hope should automatically be a rejoicing moment? It would be like encouraging you to rejoice because you received the promotion or opportunity to make the difference in winning for your work or athletic or worship team. It would be like encouraging you to rejoice after you heard God speak to you and call you to wonderful things. You should already be rejoicing.

 Many of us, though, do not rejoice at hope in something awesome. Many of us teach ourselves to tone down our hope so that any future disappointments do not hurt as much.

 But Paul tells us that we should live *rejoicing in hope.*

 We should rejoice in hope because of where we should be. We should be in the body of Christ, and that is a unique place to have hope – for ourselves and for others who need to see that Jesus lives.

 Many of us should rejoice because of the tribulations where our hope came from in the first place. Things came into our lives and instead of them knocking us out, God changed our mindset to see another way to triumph.

 *[W]e glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope; Romans 5:3-4.*

Paul said there is more. Once we have hope, we can rejoice in hope and enjoy where it leads. It may not lead to exactly what we are hoping for, but it will always lead us someplace wonderful. *[H]ope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us, Romans 5:5.*

Hope is wonderful, regardless of whether we get what we want, because it leads us to God who sheds His love over our hearts for every situation in our lives. The God who saved us from sin brings us to wonderful places over and over again.

And God is more wonderful because God does not wait for us to hope in life and in God before we can meet God. God meets us in our tribulation the same way that Jesus decided to meet our sins on the cross long before we could try to reconcile ourselves to God. *God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, Romans 5:8.*

*In the Spirit* Essence Magazine Editor Susan Taylor said, “If not for the breakups and the shakeups and things falling apart in my life. I would not know the Holy Spirit. I would not know that life is truly on our side, all the time. When my first marriage fell apart, I was thrown on my own with a baby, no man, no money, had lost my business, everything. When I look back on that, I thank God all those things happened. I was reminded to count my blessings. We have to trust and look for the divine hand in everything. It’s always there.” (Herford, Neycha K., “In the Flow with Susan Taylor”, *Heart and Soul Magazine,* 1/20/16. P. 42-44.)

 In this *Heart and Soul Magazine* interview, Susan Taylor did not say that all of those things brought optimism all the time. The time brought anxiety attacks and poverty. She said that “not being able to take care of ourselves, more than anything, created depression and fear.” But her poverty meant that she had to walk on one occasion from Manhattan to the Bronx where she stumbled upon a church, despite not having gone to church for years.

 In the church, ‘The preacher said that our minds could change our world. That no matter what our troubles, if we could put them aside for a moment, focus on possible solutions and imagine a joyous future, we would find a peace within, and positive experiences would begin to unfold.’ (Susan Taylor entry at Encyclopedia.com <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-2871200068.html>) Susan Taylor said that she decided to try it.

 And so I say today: I wish us all lives of continuous hope and achievement and fellowship. But when life goes wrong, sometimes it is designed to go wrong so that we can do new things and meet new people. Most of all, life is designed so that we can meet God in new places and feel the Holy Ghost pour new love on us on different places of our hearts.

 When hope arises, hold onto it. Rejoice in hope. Celebrate it. Rejoice and rejoice because God saves. God saves us from sin and God saves us over and over again in new life.

 If we take it seriously that we are part of the body of Christ, our rejoicing in hope is literally the resurrected evidence for the rest of the world that Jesus lives. Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; continue instant in prayer. Great things are happening!

May we all be Lifted in God’s Love,

Tobias Pinckney, 9/3/16, Powered to Witness University

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