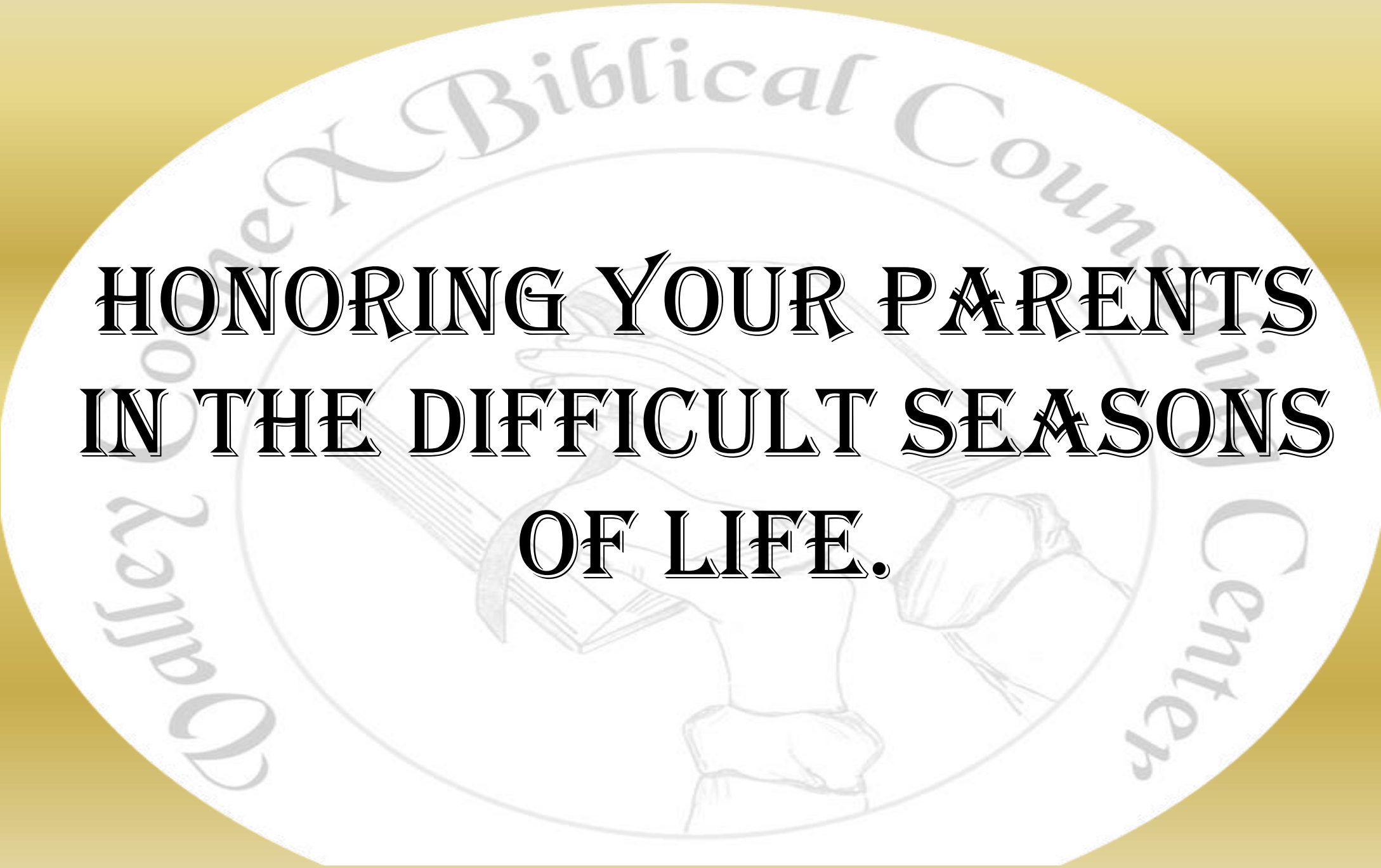


Valley Connect Biblical Counseling Center





**HONORING YOUR PARENTS
IN THE DIFFICULT SEASONS
OF LIFE.**

Factors
contributing
to
challenging
times with
parents

- Dementia
- Chronic illness
- Acute illness
- Loss of Independence
- Financial shortfalls or uncertainty
- Family members who exacerbate the situation
- Spiritual condition
- Grief

God's basic instruction and guiding principle in dealing with parents is to honor them.

- ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. *Exodus 20:12 (ESV)*



God's basic instruction and guiding principle in dealing with parents is to honor them.

- ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:48-51 (ESV)

The Bible contains multiple serious warnings against mistreatment of parents.

- ¹⁵ “Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death. *Exodus 21:15 (ESV)*
- ¹⁷ “Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death. *Exodus 21:17 (ESV)*
- ¹⁶ “‘Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ *Deuteronomy 27:16 (ESV)*

The Bible contains multiple serious warnings against mistreatment of parents.

- ²⁶ He who does violence to his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach. *Proverbs 19:26 (ESV)*
- ²⁰ If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness. *Proverbs 20:20 (ESV)*
- ¹⁷ The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures. *Proverbs 30:17 (ESV)*

Mistreatment of parents is a mark of a people ripe for God's judgment.

- ⁷ Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the sojourner suffers extortion in your midst; the fatherless and the widow are wronged in you. *Ezekiel 22:7 (ESV)*
- ⁶ for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house. *Micah 7:6 (ESV)*
- *See also Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2*

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for neglect of their parents under the pretense of their devotion to God.

- ³ He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ⁵ But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," ⁶ he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'" *Matthew 15:3-9 (ESV)*

God's basic instruction and guiding principle in dealing with parents is to honor them.

- ²² Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 23:22 (ESV)

- Show respect
- Treat with dignity
- Value their authority and wisdom

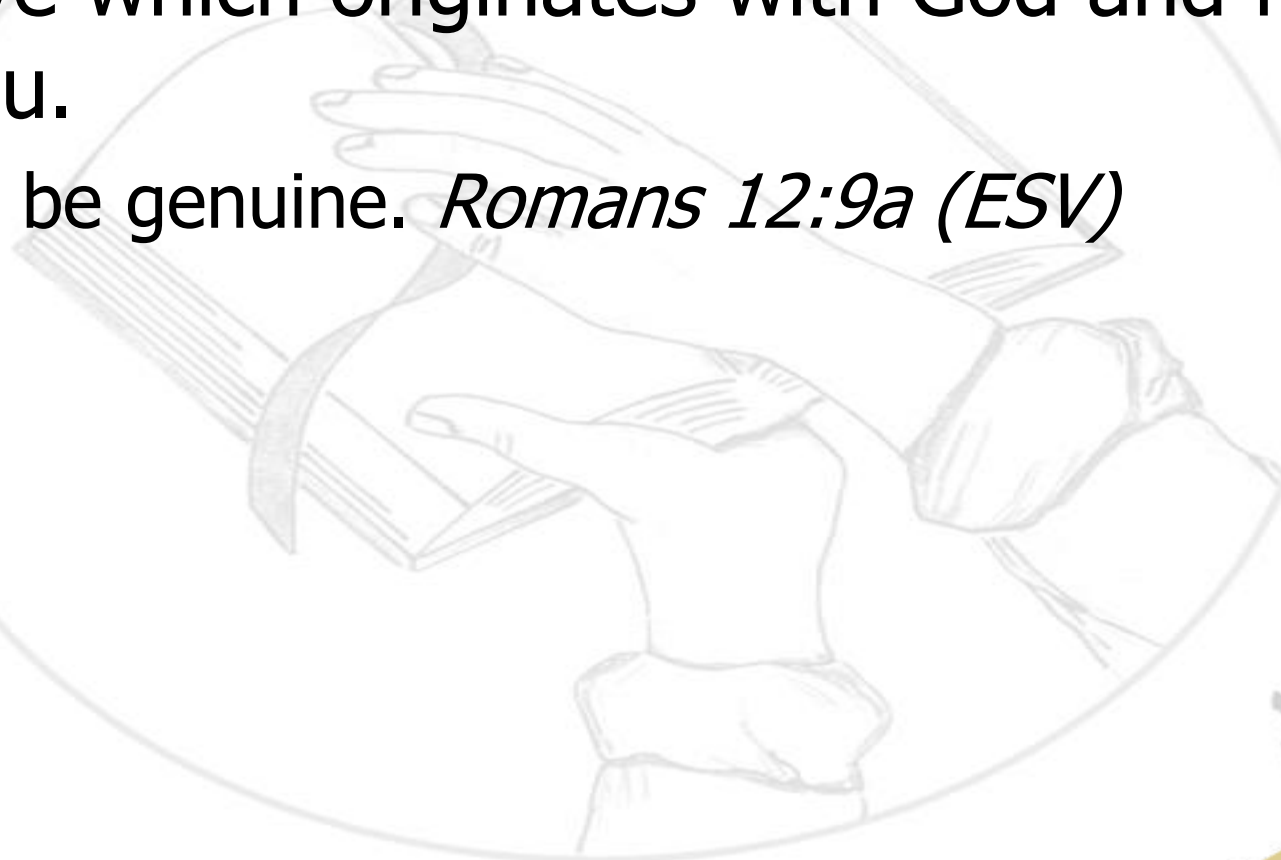
Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Let God's provision of grace save you from an unhealthy focus on yourself.
 - ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
Romans 12:3 (ESV)

Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Express love which originates with God and flows through you.
 - ⁹ Let love be genuine. *Romans 12:9a (ESV)*

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Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Set the tone for interaction with the parent and the rest of the family.
 - ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10 (ESV)

Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Remember that in serving your parents you are serving Christ.
 - ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. *Romans 12:11 (ESV)*

Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Explore and remember the many promises God gives His followers.
 - ¹² Rejoice in hope, *Romans 12:12a (ESV)*

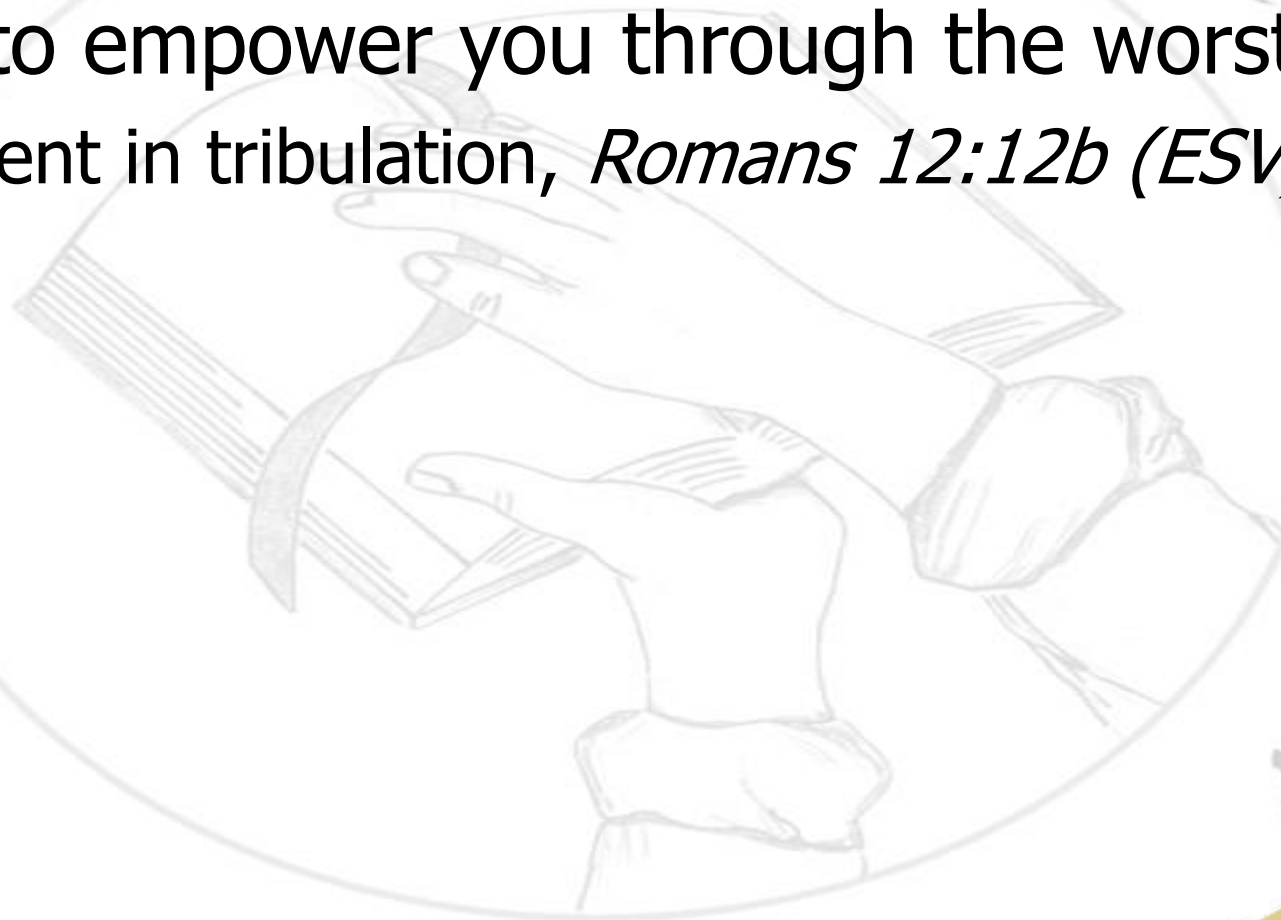
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Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Trust God to empower you through the worst of times.
 - ¹² be patient in tribulation, *Romans 12:12b (ESV)*

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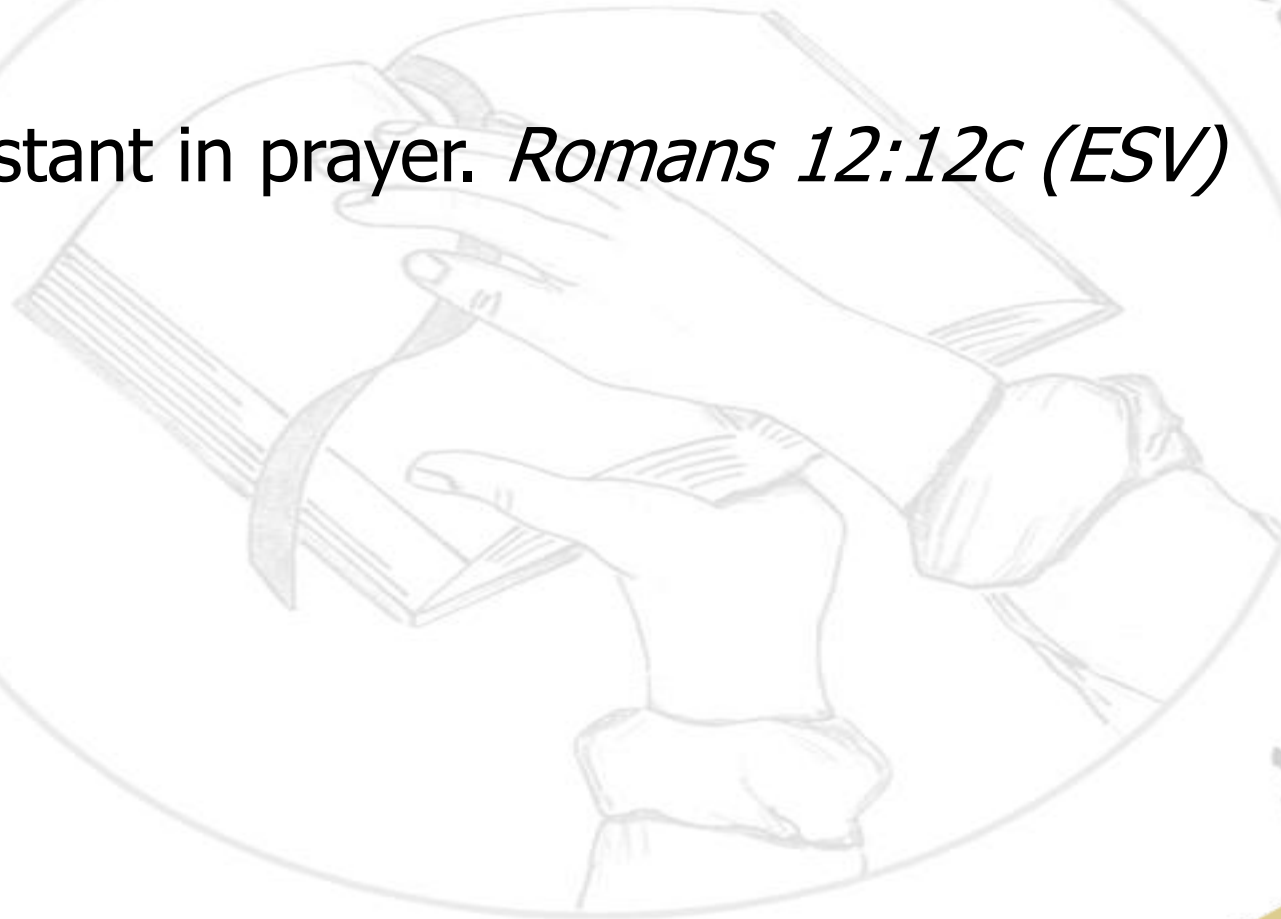
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Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- PRAY!!!

- ¹² be constant in prayer. *Romans 12:12c (ESV)*

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Make sure to respond as instructed in Scripture to every issue encountered

- Be generous
 - ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. *Romans 12:13 (ESV)*
 - ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.
1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV)

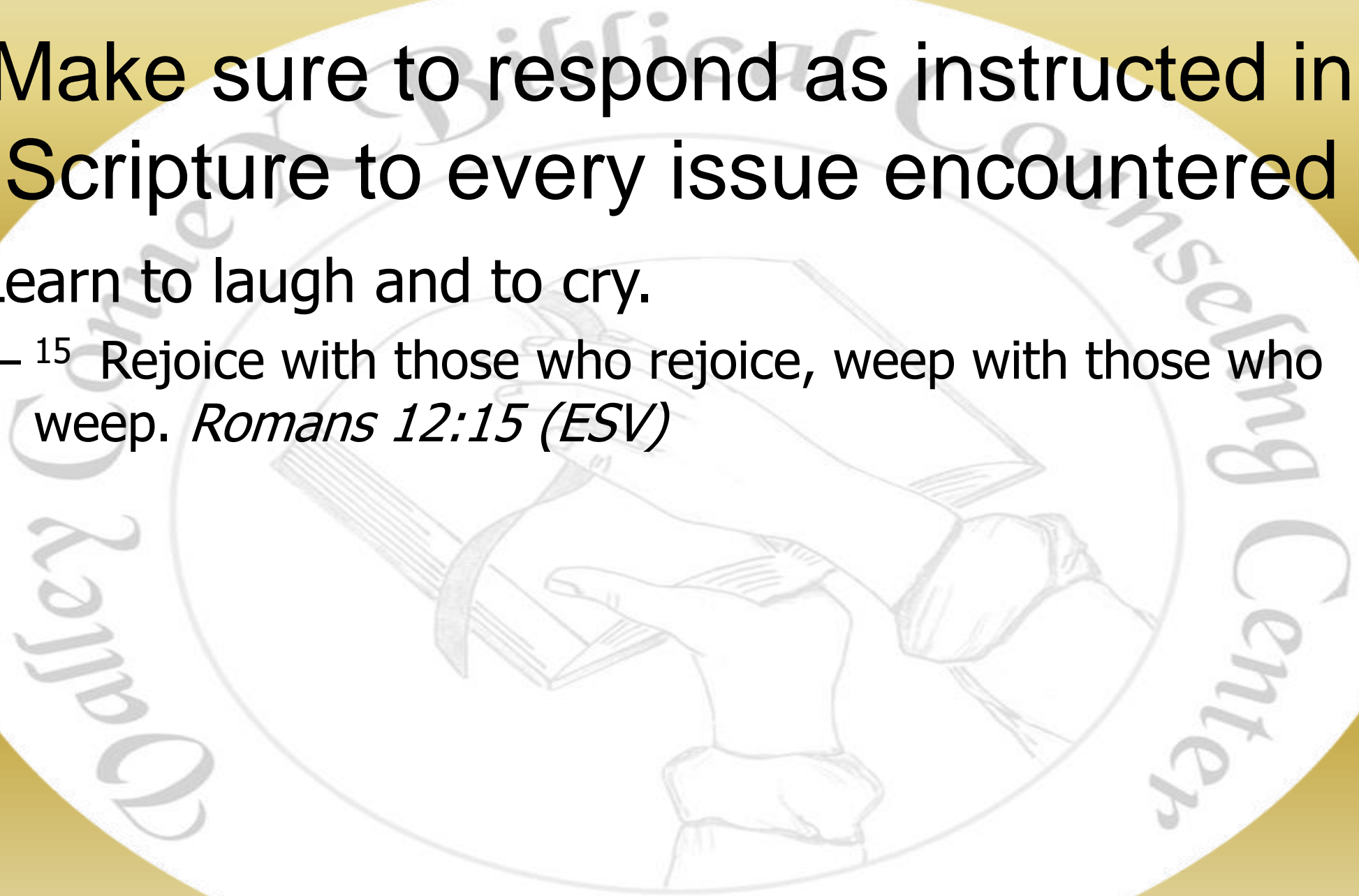
Make sure to respond as instructed in Scripture to every issue encountered

- Do good to those who treat you badly.
 - ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them...
 - ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:14, 17-21 (ESV)

Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Learn to laugh and to cry.
 - ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. *Romans 12:15 (ESV)*



Make sure to respond as instructed in
Scripture to every issue encountered

- Resist the temptation to be ashamed of your parents regardless of the condition they are in.
 - ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. *Romans 12:16 (ESV)*