

Joyful in Hope – 61 – May 28, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

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

First, some serious rejoicing with parents Cody and Emily, grandparents Greg and Polly, great grandparents Bill and Peggy, and of course, big sister Jo, on the birth of Brooks Ryan and Blakeley Ann. From the Facebook post, it appears that everybody is doing great! We're happy for all of you. We truly are!

I need to shift gears for a minute. . .

I've been wrestling with how to write this today. My soul has been troubled for some time now, but I have been convicted that I have not said enough, done enough, shown my outrage enough. Events of the past few months in Brunswick, Louisville, and now in Minneapolis have darkened the stain on the fabric of our society. I grieve for loved ones lost, for the violent actions that have destroyed lives, for the seeming blatant disregard for the sanctity and dignity of life itself, all life. And I grieve because I live in a country and a culture where the color of a person's skin somehow determines their worth.

I don't pretend to know or understand all the circumstances in the cases that have been in the news of late. I have learned to be very skeptical of the news. But, it's pretty plain to see that something is not right. On the contrary, it's just wrong!

To my friends and family members of color (in our family, that's a pretty big number), I want you to know how sorry I am. Although I can't begin to understand what you are going through, I stand with you in your outrage. I promise to speak up in the name of Jesus to try and turn the tide of racism and prejudice. This must stop.

I appreciated something Casey posted on Facebook today. It's a pretty sobering reminder of the responsibility we have to make sure we're doing the right thing at home. Please pray that our hearts will inform our homes as we seek to change the world.

