

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Glen Weber's Sermon on January 18, 2015  
"The Joy of the Lord"**

**[Today's sermon shows us that we can experience the joy of the Lord even when we go through difficult times.]**

**Notes:**

Introduction:

- Pastor Glen, at the retirement luncheon of Dan Rogers on Friday, talked with Pastor Mike Rasmussen.
- And he again told his story of thanking God and rejoicing even when he heard of his cancer diagnosis.
  
- Then Mike also explained how many people – especially on a “Road to Emmaeus” weekend – had found deliverance by rejoicing at what God was doing in their lives even though they had cancer.
  
- So the question we need to ask ourselves is – can we be joyful in the midst of trials?

Happiness versus joy:

- Many people confuse happiness with joy.
- Happiness is typically determined by our circumstances – what “happens” to us in life.
- Joy – is an amazing spiritual gift of the life of God pulsating through us in ALL circumstances.

David lived a difficult life:

- King David went through many times of terrible fear and misery.
- He confronted Goliath for defying the God of Israel.
- Saul kept trying to kill him for many years.
- His own sons were after him even though he was King of Israel.
- Shemei (a relative of Saul) threw rocks at him while David was down in the valley.
  
- Yet, David took joy in almost all these terrible circumstances.
- Let's read some of inspiring Psalms of joy that David wrote during his difficult times.

David's Psalms of joy:

Psalm 5 – ascribed to a time when David was in distress – some say during the time when his son Absalom was plotting against him.

**Psalm 5:11, But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. 12) For**

**surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.**

- During times of difficulties, we need to “take refuge” in God.

Psalm 16 – called the “golden” psalm, this is directly tied to the 15th psalm – together describing the righteous man.

**Psalm 16:11, You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

- God fills us with joy even when we struggle with problems.

Psalm 20 – THIS psalm seems to have been composed for a special occasion, when David was about to proceed on an expedition against a foreign enemy. It is liturgical, and written to be recited in the court of the tabernacle by the high priest and people.

The date of its composition is after the transfer of the ark from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David (2 Sam. 6:12–19), as appears from ver. 2. The conjecture which attaches it to the Syrian War described in 2 Sam. 10:17–19, is probable.<sup>1</sup>

**Psalm 20:4, May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. 5) We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests.**

- We need to praise God for all the blessings he gives us in our life.

Psalm 27 – David’s authorship is allowed by most critics; and the most probable period of the composition is the time when David determined to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the tabernacle which he had prepared for it on Mount Zion (2 Sam. 6:12).<sup>2</sup>

**Psalm 27:5, For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. 6) Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

- This was probably sung by the Levites as they carried the ark up to the Temple.

Psalm 28 – no specific time attached to this, but it would fit any of the many times David was in danger and distress.

**Psalm 28:6, Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. 7) The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.**

- When David was stressed with trials and difficulties, he trusted in God and cried out to Him for mercy and strength to endure them.

Psalm 33 – Again no specific time for this psalm is known.

**Psalm 33:1, Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. 2) Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. 3) Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.**

- David, who played the harp, probably wrote music for many of his praise psalms.
- We can praise God not only through song, but also through music.

Psalm 42 – the date of the composition is probably the year of David’s flight from Jerusalem on the revolt of Absalom (2 Sam. 15:16), when he spent some months in the Trans-Jordanic territory, chiefly at Mahanaim (2 Sam. 17:24; 19:32).

The psalm is chiefly an outpouring of sorrow and complaint; but still is an “instruction,” inasmuch as it teaches the lesson that in the deepest gulf of sorrow (ver. 7) the soul may still turn to God, and rest itself in hope on him (verses 5, 8, 11).<sup>3</sup>

**Psalm 42:3, My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 4) These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.**

- Just because we are facing difficulties, it doesn’t mean that God has abandoned us as some might tell us.
- We need to remember that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Psalm 47 – this is a song of praise to God, as the King of the whole earth. It has been called “one of the accession psalms,” because it depicts God as assuming his kingdom, and taking his seat upon his throne (verses 5–8).<sup>4</sup>

**Psalm 47:1, Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. 2) How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth!**

**Ps 47:5, God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets. 6) Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

- This may be describing when the resurrected Jesus, in his glorified body, entered into the throne room of God.

Psalm 51 – a psalm about God’s blessing on the king. Often attributed to David’s repentance after his sin with Bathsheba – but no commentary mentioned that thought.

**Psalm 51:10, Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11) Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

- God gives us His joy and sustains us especially when we seek Him.

Psalm 66 – the composer is about to offer a sacrifice to God in his holy place, in performance of a vow which he had made when he was in trouble (verses 13–15), and has prepared the psalm as a liturgical formula to be used on the occasion.<sup>5</sup>

**Psalm 66:1, Shout with joy to God, all the earth! 2) Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!**

- We need to praise God for His many blessings.

Ps. 71, is like so many others, a psalm divided between complaint and praise. It is comparatively wanting in originality, being, to a very great extent, an echo of other psalms, especially Psalms 22, 31, 35, and 40.<sup>6</sup>

**Ps 71:22, I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. 23) My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you — I, whom you have redeemed.**

**Ps 81:1, Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!**

- David shouted out to God – in a way of praise – many times in his life.

Psalm 95 – THIS is a liturgical psalm, probably composed for the temple service, and still used in the synagogue as one of the Friday evening psalms which introduce the sabbath. The Western Church has adopted it into its daily “Order for Prayer”—a position which it continues to occupy in our own Matins (morning prayer in the Anglican church).<sup>7</sup>

**Psalm 95:1, Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

- David not only sang praises to God but shouted them as well.

Psalm 98 – a psalm of joy at the coming of God to judge the earth.

**Psalm 98:4, Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; 5) make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, 6) with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn — shout for joy before the LORD, the King.**

- Note the use of various instruments in praising God.

Psalm 118 – a joyful hymn for processional – probably for entering the temple.

**Psalm 118:15, Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! 16) The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"**

- We need to say these things about God's goodness.

Psalm 126 – THIS psalm seems to be a joint thanksgiving and complaint, composed soon after the return from the Captivity.<sup>8</sup>

**Psalm 126:4, Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. 5) Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. 6) He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.**

- This is referring to financial restoration. It can also apply to spiritual restoration as well.

Psalm 149 the “Hallelujah Psalm”

**Psalm 149:4, For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. 5) Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.**

- Under stress, we don't often sleep well because of our restlessness.
- Praising God helps us to become relaxed, even when we are stressed out lying in bed.
- Especially in stressful times, we need God's joy.

Concluding comments:

- These are only a portion of the joy verses in Psalms. There are many more that speak of the hills, trees, valleys, etc. all singing for joy at the works of God's hands.
- There are also all of Jesus' comments about joy in his ministry.

New Hope's theme verse for 2015:

**1 Peter 1:8, Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

- May we live in the Joy of the Lord each day!
- May we experience His joy as we reflect on God and His goodness!

**Closing Prayer**

1 *Psalms Vol. I.* 1909 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.). The Pulpit Commentary (139). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

2 *Ibid* (173).

3 *Ibid* (330). .

4 *Ibid* (365).

5 *Ibid* *Psalms Vol. II.* (34).

6 *Ibid* (59). .

7 *Ibid* (310). .

8 *Ibid* (218).