

A Series of devotions on Psalm 33

REJOICE IN GOD

Psalm 33:21 “. . .our heart is glad in Him (Yahweh), because we trust in His holy name.”

The Psalmist began Psalm 33 exhorting you, the reader, to Shout for joy in the Lord. He provided a list of reason to rejoice including God giving His word of truth upon which His covenant people can put their faith and trust. In verse 21 He again focuses upon the source of joy or rejoicing a believer has, namely God Himself. The believers joy is fed by the fact that he or she has been given, by God, a faith that trust in Him.

Since the joy of the believer is one based on trust (faith), it is therefore not emotional joy or some euphoric high like a sugar buzz. It is joy that is found in the heart. It is real and lasting joy. It is prompted by the Holy Spirit who leads the believer through God’s Word using it to speak to God words of praise and thanksgiving.

Hearing and knowing God’s name leads to this joy. In the Old Testament a name was of great importance. For the Israelites, a name was who or what a person was. Naming someone expressed ownership or relationship. A name equaled one’s reputation. A name was like a mark or a brand. In the Old Testament and New Testament God reveals Himself through His names.

Psalm 33 calls for a communal, not just an individual trust in God. Yet the Psalm invites you to personally examine your heart as to who you believe God is and the relationship you have with Him. Do you believe Him to be the creator and caretaker of the world in which you live? Do you put your faith and trust in Him for all your earthly and spiritual needs? Is it your goal, led by the faith He has given you to follow Him? Is your hope in Him and His undeserved and steadfast love and kindness?

Trusting in His holy name by which He has revealed Himself and called you into His family is what your faith is based and where your joy is found. This Psalm encourages you to base your joy in the Lord and in His Word. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. . . And the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4,7)

Prayer: My heart is filled with joy, O Lord. Through Your name you have revealed Yourself to me as my creator, redeemer and sanctifier. I rejoice in You, Your goodness and kindness and Your Fatherly care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing. A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n above.
(LSB 737)