



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – October 23, 2021

The Lord be with you.

Did you know that God not only loves you, that God not only likes you, but the God takes pleasure in you? That God delights in you? That having you as his child makes God smile?

I'm gonna talk for a few moments about this, that it makes God happy to love you, that God takes pleasure in you being His child. I'm looking at Psalm 149, that is a crescendo of praise that is working to bring to completion the 150 psalms that make up the book of Psalms. As Sam 149 is, well, it's pulling out all the stops and joyful praise of God for all of his goodness and grace to us. I read the first verses of Psalm 149, praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song. His praise in the assembly of the faithful, let Israel be glad in its maker. Let the children of Zion rejoice in their king. Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to him, with tambourine and liar. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people.

Notice that last verse. Notice the reason for praising God for singing a new song to him, for the Lord takes pleasure in his people. Let that soak in for a moment. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people. The Hebrew word translated takes pleasure is the word ratsa that is variously translated in the Old Testament as take delight in be satisfied with except favorably, and it's here translated as take pleasure in... Now, I want to think about that for a moment. That the Lord takes pleasure in his people. The Lord takes delight in... Is satisfied. Accepts favorably His people.

Now, this verse came to my mind recently is my wife and I had gone out for coffee, something we like to do to sit and talk, and when we were talking and drinking coffee, I see this mother who's holding her little baby, and it was so beautiful and she was smiling at her baby, talking to her, rocking her gently singing quietly to her little baby, and she was enjoying her little baby, she was taking pleasure in her baby... I'm gonna use the Hebrew word here. She was ratsaing her baby. And I thought about what it would mean for that baby through the years, her mother taking pleasure in her as an infant as a youth, knowing that mom delights in her. I mean. You talk about growing up with a good self-concept, about confidence in life, about security, that my mother takes pleasure in me, I'm not a burden, I'm not a pain, but my mother delights in me.

Counselors tell us that much of what we think about ourselves, much of what we are, it's formed by how we think the most important person in our life see us, how mom sees us, how dad sees us, have a teacher, a coach, a friend sees us. It's called the looking glass self, that we see ourselves reflected in how others act and react to us, so that a bunch of what we believe about ourselves, our self concept comes from what we think others think of us.



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Now, I want to ask you, I want to ask you to believe that our heavenly Father, that he not only loves you, but that he takes pleasure in you, that He delights in you, like that mother did it with her baby that day. Jesus tells us that when you come home to the Father, that the father throws a party, he kills a fated calf, he puts the best robe on you, he puts a ring on your finger and says, Let's celebrate that you've come home to him. And that's really what Psalm 149 is about. It's praising God for the pleasure he takes in his people.

So we see a Christian can have the best concept of anyone in the world, and I wanna hold my finger here at Psalm 149 for a moment and turn over to the prophet Zephaniah. Zephaniah, chapter 3 verse 17, it says, The Lord your God is with you. The mighty warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you. In his love, he will no longer rebuke you. But will rejoice over you with singing. Picture that for a moment. God rejoicing over you, His child, with singing. So glad that you have come home to him.

I have a question for you.

How would your life change if you really believe the Bible's wonderful words about God taking pleasure in you? That you look in the mirror and see what God sees in you.

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song. His praise in the assembly of the faithful, let Israel be glad in its maker, let the children of Zion rejoice in their king, let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and liar. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people.

So take this with you into your day that The Lord takes pleasure in you.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.



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