

Restore our Fortunes, O Lord - Psalm 126
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

When was the last time you can say you felt and/or experienced joy?

Lots of things bring us that feeling. A puppy or kitten. Getting a new toy. Your wedding day. Getting your college diploma. Having a child. The (insert favorite sports team) winning the (insert championship)! Playing with your grandchildren (and then, sending them home!) Many things can be said to bring us joy, and those things are wonderful things!

What about joy in Christ? When was the last time your joy in Christ manifested in tears, or laughter, or shouting for joy? John Piper responded to a question from Susan about Joy, saying, "...Joy in God is not a choice. It is a God-given, spontaneous experience of the beauty, worth, greatness of God. But there are choices that we can make that may lead to that experience, because the Bible says, "Look. Look and pray. Look at the Lord in his word, and pray for eyes to see and a heart to feel."

My goal for you today is to look at Psalm 126 and do exactly what John Piper says, because that is what they did. They remembered where they were (likely captivity in Babylon), they remembered what God had done for them (rescued them and restored them from captivity), and they shouted for joy!

We should be experts at doing the same thing they did. We remember where we were (sinners, dying and lost, condemned), we remember what Jesus did for us (saved us from our sins), and we then remember what our response should be: Singing, praising, shouting, dancing, whatever it may be, in joy to the Lord for what He has done.

Simple application to this sermon, and for you to ponder at home: What are you doing, what are you remembering, to spark the flame of Joy in your soul? Today is a great day to Read Psalm 126, to pray Psalm 126, to sing Psalm 126 (I recommend the version by Charlie Hall, it's a throwback to early 1990's Passion Conferences), and to remember the word of Jesus in your life. Or, it could be, today is the day to trust in Jesus for the first time! That would also be a joyous occasion. Either way, seek the Lord today in Psalm 126, lift up His name, and remember, His will for you is to have Joy, and have it in abundance in Him!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Chron icles 15	1 Chron icles 16	1 Chron icles 17	1 Chron icles 18	1 Chron icles 19	1 Chron icles 20	1 Chron icles 21

Reading from this past week: Psalm 126

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 127

Family Worship

Song - *God is For Us*

<https://youtu.be/U24r7iHNSJU?si=yL1joNhis0i5HlkR>

Gospel Project

Unit: Paul's Mission To Rome

Story: Paul returned to Jerusalem

Big Picture Question: Why should we praise Jesus?

Answer: We should praise Jesus for what He has done to provide our salvation and because He will one day make all things right.

Scripture: Acts 21-22

New City Catechism

Question 26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

Answer: Every part of fallen creation.

Verse: Colossians 1:19-20

Scripture

Psalm 126

- Has there been a time in your life where you cried out to God to restore your fortunes, to bring you back to the joy of the Lord?
- What are some of the "great things" the Lord has done for you? Make a list of at least 10 things.
- Why is it important to remember God's past work when our current situation is difficult?
- How can we become experts in experiencing joy? What are some clear steps to take?

Prayer

*Pray for our mission team leaving for Ecuador this week, and for their work with Buen Pastor Church in Cayambe, and pastor David Meyer.

*Cry out to God to restore the fortunes of His people and send revival to our land.