

Sing and be Happy

Ponder: David's singing and ours

Scripture: "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13 NKJV).

David's psalms show that both before and during his reign as king of Israel, he endured severe setbacks and enjoyed smashing successes. Regardless of circumstances, David put his trust in God. Psalm nine particularly demonstrates his reaction to God's care for him. We would do well to imitate David in these four ways:

- 1) "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart" (v. 1a). The word praise includes giving of thanks, along with lauding (magnifying, extolling) God. David often pleaded with God to help him. Here, we see that when God answered his prayers, David remembered to thank and praise Him, not as a mere formality, but from his heart.
- 2) "I will tell of all Your marvelous works" (v. 1b). Here, David pledges to recount, rehearse, and declare the mighty acts of God. Many times David had experienced God's deliverance first-hand. In a very real way, he had a story to tell! He also knew the wonderful things God had done for His people in centuries past. (Think, in particular, of the deliverance from Egyptian slavery and the conquest of Canaan.) David knew his people needed to remember what God had done. We, too, ought to educate people in these great Biblical accounts, as well as recounting the blessings that God, in His providence, gives us today.
- 3) "I will be glad and rejoice in You" (v. 2a). "Be glad" and "rejoice" have practically the same meaning: to exult. David rejoiced not merely because his circumstances were favorable, but because he was thrilled to be in fellowship with God and under His care. So ought we to be!
- 4) "I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High" (v. 2b). One natural result of thanking and extolling God, and of happily recounting the great things He has done, is to sing His praise! This is not limited to singing while assembled with other believers, though that is certainly one opportune time. Even when you're alone, sing! God will listen. "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13). Sing and be happy today!