

Joy Comes In The Morning

Ponder: The goodness and severity of God.

Scripture: "Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning" (Psa. 30:5b, NKJV).

Sometimes we get "too big for our britches" so our loving Father takes us down a peg or two (or several). King David wrote, "Now in my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved'" (Psa. 30:6). In that moment he had forgotten the true source of his security.

God caught his attention in short order: "You hid Your face, and I was troubled" (v. 7b). When the Lord humbled him with a life-threatening condition, the king repented and pleaded for restoration. "O Lord my God, I cried out to you, and You healed me. O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave" (vv. 2-3a).

As God's holy people, we should learn from David's experience. "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning" (vv. 4-5).

David pictures God's anger as an unwelcome guest who comes to spend the night, reducing you to tears. In the morning, another guest (favor) takes the first guest's place, bringing joy. The first guest remains only a moment in contrast to a lifetime of God's favor.

The Lord chastens in love (Heb. 12:6). Let us give Him thanks and praise, as David did, for His mercy and favor if we will but repent and pray. "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness" (v. 11).

Not every trial indicates God is chastening you for sin. However, sometimes He is! God's corrective discipline can take many forms, none of them pleasant. How will you respond? Let joy be yours in the morning!

Hymn: "All To Jesus I Surrender"

Prayer: Holy Father, we praise and thank You for loving us enough to correct us when we stray. Help us to accept Your discipline and amend our ways so joy may be ours in the morning. In Jesus' name, Amen.