

Christmas in the Psalms

Part 2: Psalm 98—Joy to the World

We can struggle with joy at Christmas for many reasons: financial hardship, health issues, strained relationships, loss of a loved one, bad childhood memories, not able to be with family. But joy in our life—not only at Christmas but all through the year—does not come from external conditions.

**Joy is not the byproduct of the right circumstances;
it's the result of a right _____ with God.**

Reasons for Joy from Psalm 98

1. God has supernaturally _____ in our lives and done miracles.

– v.1—“Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things...”

2. Jesus has won the _____ and therefore we _____!

– v.1—“... His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.”

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” - 2 Corinthians 2:14

3. Joy is connected to Christ's coming & our _____ through Him.

“The LORD has made known His salvation... ³All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.” - Psalm 98:2-4

4. God is in _____, and we can trust Him.

“Sing to the LORD with the harp, ... ^{6b}Shout joyfully before the LORD, the King... ⁹For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity.” - Psalm 98:5-6,9

- Jesus is King, He's in charge. He judges with fairness. He's trustworthy.

Joy is the deep down _____ God is in control.

Phillipians 4:4-8—Paul was in prison, but he still had joy because he:

- Rejoiced in his relationship with the Lord, not how things were going—v.4.
- Yielded his situation to God, trusting the Lord was near him—v.5.
- Refused to be anxious, but prayed and thanked God for working things out—v.6
- Renewed his mind with the Word—what was true, of good report, etc.—v.8

Have you relinquished control to God? It's the only way to true joy!