

God's Deliverance
July 13, 2025
Allen Power

Psalm 18:16-29

We don't often use the word "delight" or "delightful" these days. What does it mean to delight in something or someone? Think of a parent or a grandparent who delights in their child or grandchild. What will a parent do for the child in which he or she delights?

Psalm 18 is "A psalm of David, the servant of the Lord. He sang this song to the Lord on the day the Lord rescued him from all his enemies and from Saul."ⁱ Beginning at verse 16, David described how God defended him:

Psalm 18:16–29 (NLT) — **16** He reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters. **17** He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. **18** They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the Lord supported me. **19** He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me. **20** The Lord rewarded me for doing right; he restored me because of my innocence. **21** For I have kept the ways of the Lord; I have not turned from my God to follow evil. **22** I have followed all his regulations; I have never abandoned his decrees. **23** I am blameless before God; I have kept myself from sin. **24** The Lord rewarded me for doing right. He has seen my innocence.

- Parents should love their children equally (some days it may not FEEL like that).
- Love is the foundation, but delight is a step above. How does that work?
- God is the ultimate example of a great parent; He loves all His children equally and meets the needs of each one. Sometimes the child earns rewards.
- In verses 19 through 24 David said God rewarded Him with special protection from his enemies because he was "blameless". Not sinless but blameless.
- This does not mean God neglects any of His children but if we study how David escaped harm and death at the hands of King Saul and his other enemies, we see that God gave David a special measure of defense and deliverance.
- Look at verse 19: How did David earn this special deliverance?
- A parent delights in the child if the child is DELIGHTFUL in their conduct.
- We saw in Psalm 1 the contrast of God's blessings on those who obey Him and the wicked who are not His children.
- Psalm 1:6 says, ⁶ *...the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.* ⁱⁱ
- Those God blesses in Psalm 1 are His children (those who have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord), the wicked are NOT.
- Children are not always delightful. Sometimes the child is disobedient.
- **Hebrews 12:6 (NLT)** — **6** *For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.* God's discipline is also out of love.
- Later as King of Israel, David's sin made him disappointing instead of delightful.
- This shows us that even a man "after God's own heart" could fail in sin.

- The good news is he confessed his sin and was restored.
- There were still consequences, but I believe scripture shows that after his confession David was once again delightful to God. (Acts 13:22-23)
- This was possible because of God's grace. David didn't earn forgiveness just as we can't earn salvation, but we CAN earn the special rewards of God's DELIGHT.

25 To the faithful you show yourself faithful; to those with integrity you show integrity. **26** To the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd. **27** You rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud. **28** You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. **29** In your strength I can crush an army; with my God I can scale any wall.

So, What's the Takeaway?

- It is a comfort to know that God loves and cares for all His children (Christ-followers) equally. I don't know about you, but I want MORE.
- Because of God's love and Christ's sacrifice I want to strive to be DELIGHTFUL to Him so He will DELIGHT in me!
- It is so tragic to hear someone say they never felt delight from their parents. Instead, they felt distance maybe even disdain. Our earthly parents are flawed humans like all of us and we need to forgive them for where they failed.
- Here is the BEST NEWS! If you don't remember anything else from this study be sure to get this! Whether your earthly parents were doting or disappointing, you can have a Heavenly Father who DELIGHTS in you.
- If you have trusted Christ, God will defend you, God will deliver you, and if needed, God will discipline you. It's all because God DELIGHTS in His children.
- Because we love Him, we should desire to be DELIGHTFUL to Him.
- Studying this passage I thought of an old Gospel song. Listen to the words:
*"Why did he go to cavalry?
 Why was his life's blood shed for me?
 Why did he suffer like no man has ever done?
 There's just one reason, I am the one.*

When I'm sad, he loves me.

Even when I'm bad, he still loves me

And when it seems no one cares for me, I talk to Jesus. He loves me.

*He loves me. He loves me. Jesus loves me.*ⁱⁱⁱ

- **Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)** — Tells us, *"For the Lord your God...is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

This week when you have those moments of feeling under attack, or just overwhelmed by the trials of life, pause, and remember: MY HEAVENLY FATHER DELIGHTS IN ME!

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 18:title).
Tyndale House Publishers.

ⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ps 1:6).
Tyndale House Publishers.

ⁱⁱⁱ He Loves Me By George Amon Webster Copyright 1977, BMG Platinum Songs o/b/o Homeward Bound
Music