

God's Faithfulness
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Psalm 105:1-11,42-45

Opening: At our house, when we are hanging at the pool, you will likely hear 70's music. Why is that? (Quick answer: *"My pool, my tunes!"* ☺) But, really, why would we float in the pool listening to 50-year-old music? [Illustration: Some of you! USC study.]

Sometimes, it's not the memory of an old song taking us back in time; it is how the lyrics of a song speak to our hearts. [Illustration from last Sunday's invitation hymn. *"I trust in God, my Savior, He will never fail..."*]ⁱ

David wrote Psalm 105 as a worship song. The first fifteen verses were sung as a hymn while they brought the of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:7-22). It is a song of praise and remembrance. Its words caused the people of Israel to recall and celebrate God's faithfulness throughout their history.

The point: We shouldn't live in the past, but it is important to recall the past. That is especially true when we are recalling God's past faithfulness in our lives. The first five verses of Psalm 105 give us a list of things we can do daily to restore our hearts to rejoicing based on what God has done for us in the past.

(ESV) — **1** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! **2** Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! **3** Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! **4** Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! **5** Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

- Verse 1: Rejoicing begins with thankfulness to the Lord. God's people should have an attitude of gratitude. No matter our trials, the list of things to thank God for is always longer than our complaints if we will simply make that list.
- *"Call upon his name..."* Why is addressing God by name important? Have you studied the many Old Testament names of God? Why should we study them?
- God's Old Testament names describe who He is--His power, holiness, mercy, and other divine attributes (i.e. Creator, Almighty God, my Provider, My Healer, my Peace, my Shepherd, my Father, my Savior. Below is a list of God's names in scripture and their meaning.)ⁱⁱ His specific names remind me He meets my need.
- Verse 2: *"Sing praises to Him; tell of His wondrous works."* Do you ever sing to God in your private worship? Bet you sing in the car...why not a song of praise?
- *"Tell of His wondrous works."* First, tell YOURSELF! Second, slip it into conversation with others. Finally, be sure to tell your kids. (Deut. 6:6-7)

- Verse 3 tells us to “*glory in his Name.*” That word “glory” is used as a verb. Do you know how to glory in God’s name and character? It’s time we learned.
- Glorifying in God puts the spotlight on Him not us. Six ways to “glory” in God:
 - Start your day with gratitude and recognizing His presence in all moments.
 - Give God credit for your successes and share how He works in your life.
 - Place your hope in God by trusting Him during uncertain times.
 - Honor God publicly by speaking of your faith naturally.
 - Make decisions that glorify God by seeking to honor Him and obey Him.
 - Reflect God’s love to others so they see His glory in you.
- “*Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!*” The word “let” indicates that our hearts are wired to rejoice but the burdens of life suppress our rejoicing.
- Do you believe we are naturally wired to rejoice?
- Evidence: 1. Look at a baby! 2. If I handed you a check for \$1 million you wouldn’t struggle to rejoice! Eternal life is worth a lot more than that!
- My problems are real; but God is greater than my problems. When I look back at His past faithfulness and DECIDE to trust Him the burdens are lifted, and my heart will naturally do what He designed it to do: REJOICE. LET IT REJOICE!
- That isn’t living in denial. We still must do our part to deal with our problems.
- Think of it this way. When we are very sick, at some point we hand over our tasks to someone else and just REST until we regain our physical strength.
- When we are pressed down with the burdens of life, we need to hand them to God and let our heart REJOICE for a while until we regain our spiritual strength.
- Verse four is one of my favorite verses: “Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually!” Is “seek” active or passive? Can you really “seek” for something laying in your recliner? (Only seeking something to watch on TV!)
- If you lost your wallet, I’ll bet you would seek for it with INTENSITY. We need to learn to SEEK God’s presence and His strength with that kind of intensity.
- We all know Jeremiah 29:11 but do we remember verse 13?
- **Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) — 13** You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
- **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) — 6** And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- Verse five is another call to “remember” the “wonders” God has done. The people of Israel had many of God’s “wonders” to recall and grow their faith.
- You and I also have a history of God’s faithfulness to recall.
- Beginning with verse six, this psalm is addressed directly to Israel.

6 O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones! **7** He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. **8** He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, **9** the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, **10** which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, **11** saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

- From verse 12 to verse 41 David recounted the history of God’s faithfulness to His chosen people Israel. Then he concluded in the last four verses:

Psalm 105:42–45 (ESV) — **42** For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant. **43** So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing. **44** And he gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples’ toil, **45** that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

- Verses 42 and 45 also apply to us today. *“He remembered his holy promise.”*
- That saying, “Promises made; promises kept” didn’t originate as political slogan – it was first (and accurately) a reminder that we serve a promise-keeping God.
- Verse 45: God’s faithfulness should make us want to obey His word.

What’s the Takeaway?

- We shouldn’t live in the past, but it is important to recall the past; especially recalling God’s past faithfulness in our lives.
- Psalm 105 isn’t a song any of us have ever sung, but it gives us a detailed path to releasing our hearts to rejoice by recalling Who God is and What He has done.
- I would challenge us all to do what is described in verses 1-5. We should...
 - Thank God for His love and faithfulness! Especially for salvation!
 - Sing praises to Him! Really, do it, sing along with great praise songs.
 - Tell about His faithfulness. It doesn’t have to be “churchy.” For example: When good things come up in conversation give Him the credit. *“Yes, God has really been good to me!”* God’s people are not lucky, we are blessed!
 - Glory in the Lord by turning the “spotlight” on Him.
 - Use God’s various names depending on your needs. *“Lord, I need healing and YOU ARE my healer.” “Lord, I need peace and YOU ARE my peace.”*
 - We should hand Him our burdens and take a REJOICING break by letting our heart do what it was created to do: REJOICE!
 - Just like resting when we are sick, we need a period of rejoicing until our spiritual strength is renewed to face another day.
 - We need to SEEK His presence and His strength with intensity because they are worth more than all the gold and silver in the world.
 - If we will sincerely and regularly do these things, we will be better at obeying God’s commands in scripture because we love and want to please Him.
- This week let’s use these verses in Psalm 105 to help us recall how good the Lord has been and that He never fails to keep His promises.

ⁱ Songwriters: Brandon Lake / Christopher Joel Brown / Mitch Wong / Steven Furtick
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ⁱⁱ Here are examples of the names of God found in Scripture with their meanings. These names reveal different aspects of God’s character, actions, and relationship to His people:

Name | Meaning | Scriptural Reference |
Elohim** | Strong, Creator God | Genesis 1:1 |

El Elyon** | God Most High | Genesis 14:18, Psalm 7:17 |
El Shaddai** | Almighty God | Genesis 17:1 |
Adonai** | Lord, Master | Deuteronomy 3:24; Psalm 16:2 |
Yahweh/YHWH** | "I Am" -- The Self-Existent One | Exodus 3:14 |
Jehovah Jireh** | The Lord Will Provide | Genesis 22:14 |
Jehovah Rapha** | The Lord Who Heals | Exodus 15:26 |
Jehovah Nissi** | The Lord Is My Banner | Exodus 17:15 |
Jehovah Shalom** | The Lord Is Peace | Judges 6:24 |
Jehovah Rohi** | The Lord My Shepherd | Psalm 23:1 |
Jehovah Shammah** | The Lord Is There/Present | Ezekiel 48:35 |
El Roi** | The God Who Sees Me | Genesis 16:13 |
El Olam** | The Everlasting/ Eternal God | Genesis 21:33 |
Abba** | Father | Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15 |
Magen** | My Shield/Protector | Deuteronomy 33:29; Psalm 18:2 |
Miqweh Yisrael** | Hope of Israel | Jeremiah 17:13; Psalm 71:5 |