

Psalm 70:4

Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; And let those who love your salvation say continually, Let God be magnified!

In this psalm King David exhorts all those who seek the Lord to rejoice and be glad. The Hebrew word he uses for rejoice is suws which means to brighten up, or be cheerful. He uses a similar word for glad (samach). The idea is that those who seek the Lord should be cheerful and gleesome.

Jesus touched on this when he told his disciples, *Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

(Matthew 6:16-17)

Those who have been saved have a reason to be bright and cheerful. If we love our salvation it is our joy that God is magnified. The Hebrew word David uses for magnified means to twist or make large in body, mind, honor and pride. The redeemed are to make God large. How? You might ask. God is bigger than all creation. How can finite creatures make him larger? Does he really need our help?

This is exactly what is recorded in the Book of Acts. Paul made a stop in Ephesus during his missionary journeys. Scripture records that for two years God worked many unusual miracles through Paul. When the seven sons of Sceva attempted to cast out a demon the way Paul had, they were overcome by the evil spirit. Luke writes, *This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.* (Acts 19:17) The Greek word used for magnified is megaluno and means to make or declare great, to increase or extol.

Jesus was magnified not only by the signs and wonders worked through Paul but also by the life he lived. He wrote to the Philippians, *...according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.* (Philippians 1:20)

Though we cannot physically increase God's awesomeness, by our works and way of life we make him larger in the hearts, minds and eyes of men. We spread his fame. We make him known. We say "Let God be magnified!"

Scripture references:

Psalms 35:27

Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Psalms 9:2

I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalms 32:11

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Psalms 68:3

But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yes, let them rejoice exceedingly.

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Revelation 19:7

Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

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