

Psalm 33:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Analysis

For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. David declares the result of trusting God—heart-level joy rooted in confidence in God's character. This connects inner emotional state (rejoice) with volitional faith (trusted) grounded in divine revelation (His holy name).

For our heart shall rejoice in him provides cause and effect. Because God's eye is upon those who fear Him (v. 19), because He delivers from death (v. 19), because He is help and shield (v. 20), therefore our heart shall rejoice. Heart (leb) represents inner being—emotions, will, affections. Rejoice (samach) means to be glad, joyful, exult. This isn't superficial happiness dependent on circumstances but deep joy rooted in relationship with God. In him locates joy's source—not in blessings received but in God Himself. He is both object and ground of joy.

Because we have trusted in his holy name provides foundation for rejoicing. Trusted (batach) means to feel safe, be confident, rely on. Past tense (have trusted) suggests established confidence, not momentary decision. This trust produces joy—not vice versa. We don't rejoice to work up trust; we rejoice because we trust. His holy name represents God's revealed character. Name in Hebrew thought isn't mere label but essence—who God is, what He's like, how He acts. Holy name emphasizes God's perfect character, covenant faithfulness, transcendent purity. Trust in holy name means confidence in who God has revealed Himself to be.

Reformed theology sees here *ordo salutis*—order of salvation. Trust (faith)

precedes joy (assurance). We believe, therefore we rejoice. Faith grasps God's character revealed in His name; joy follows naturally as fruit of faith. This opposes approaches making feelings primary or demanding joy independent of faith. True joy flows from true faith; deep rejoicing roots in confident trust. The sequence matters: trust God's holy name, then heart rejoices.

Historical Context

Rejoicing in God permeates Old Testament worship. Psalms repeatedly call God's people to rejoice in LORD (Psalms 5:11, 9:2, 32:11, 35:9, 97:12). This wasn't empty command but invitation to experience joy flowing from relationship with God. Israel's festivals combined celebration with worship—joy rooted in remembering God's mighty acts, His covenant faithfulness, His promised blessings.

Trusting God's name reflects Name theology central to Old Testament. God revealed His name to Moses (Exodus 3:13-15), establishing covenant relationship. Tower of name (Proverbs 18:10) provides refuge. Those knowing God's name trust in Him (Psalm 9:10). Jesus taught disciples to pray: Hallowed be Your name (Matthew 6:9). Name represents reputation, character, revealed nature. Trusting God's holy name means relying on who He's shown Himself to be through His acts and words.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does rejoicing in God Himself differ from rejoicing in blessings God gives?

2. What is relationship between trusting God and experiencing joy—why must trust precede rejoicing?
3. What does God's holy name reveal about His character that grounds your confidence?
4. How can you cultivate heart-level joy (not superficial happiness) rooted in trust in God's name?
5. In what ways does your joy level reflect the strength of your trust in God's revealed character?

Interlinear Text

קָדֵשׁ	וְבָשֵׂם	כִּי	לְבָנָה
H3588	H0	shall rejoice	H3588
H8055		For our heart	H3820
נִשְׁמָע	כִּי	כִּי	וְבָשֵׂם
H8034			קָדֵשׁ
			וְבָשֵׂם כִּי
			כִּי
			וְבָשֵׂם כִּי
			וְבָשֵׂם כִּי

בָּשְׂמָעָה:

in him because we have trusted

H982

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 13:5 (Faith): But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

Zechariah 10:7 (Parallel theme): And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.

Revelation 4:8 (Holy): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Isaiah 25:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Psalms 28:7 (Faith): The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

1 Chronicles 16:10 (Holy): Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.

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