

Psalms 35:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

Analysis

Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. After calling for judgment on his enemies (verses 4-8, 26), David now prays for his allies' joy. This demonstrates godly concern for others even amid personal crisis. David wants those who support his 'righteous cause' (tzidqi, צִדְקָי) to experience joy and gladness when God vindicates him.

'That favour my righteous cause' (chafetzei tzidqi, חָפְצֵי צִדְקָי) literally means 'those who delight in my righteousness.' David's supporters aren't merely political allies but those who desire justice and righteousness to prevail. They share David's values and recognize his cause as just. Their joy in his vindication isn't partisan celebration but rejoicing in righteousness vindicated and justice executed.

The phrase 'let them say continually' (yomru tamid, יֹאמְרוּ תָמִיד) emphasizes ongoing, perpetual praise—not momentary celebration but sustained testimony. The content of their testimony is crucial: 'Let the LORD be magnified.' This moves beyond thanking God for favorable outcomes to magnifying God's character. The focus shifts from the blessing to the Blessor, from deliverance to the Deliverer.

The final clause reveals God's heart: He 'hath pleasure in the prosperity of his

servant' (chafetz shalom avdo, עֲבֹדוֹ שְׁלֹמִים חָפֶצֶת). The word shalom (שְׁלֹמִים) encompasses far more than material prosperity—it means peace, wholeness, well-being, flourishing in every dimension. God delights (chafetz, the same root as 'favour' earlier) in His servants' comprehensive well-being. This counters false theology that God delights in His people's suffering. While He uses suffering redemptively, His ultimate desire is for His children's flourishing.

Historical Context

This verse reflects ancient Near Eastern concepts of corporate identity and shared destiny. In David's world, individuals weren't isolated autonomous units but members of communities whose fortunes rose and fell together. When the king prospered, the nation prospered; when he suffered, they suffered. David's prayer for his supporters' joy recognizes this interconnectedness—his vindication benefits not just himself but all who aligned with his cause.

The phrase 'righteous cause' had legal implications in ancient Israel. Court cases were evaluated based on righteousness—whether the plaintiff's claim was just and whether the defendant was innocent or guilty. David's confidence in his 'righteous cause' wasn't arrogance but conviction that God's investigation would vindicate him. He had not conspired against Saul despite opportunity (1 Samuel 24, 26), had not sought Absalom's throne but had been driven from it, had not committed the crimes his enemies alleged.

The concept of God taking 'pleasure in the prosperity of his servant' distinguishes biblical faith from pagan religion. Ancient deities were often capricious, jealous of human success, or indifferent to human welfare. In contrast, YHWH delights in blessing His covenant people. This divine benevolence wasn't unconditional—it operated within covenant relationship—but it was genuine. God desired Israel's flourishing, promising abundance, peace, and victory if they obeyed (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

Jesus embodied this divine pleasure in human flourishing. His ministry was characterized by healing, feeding, delivering, and restoring people to wholeness. He stated His purpose: 'I am come that they might have life, and that they might

have it more abundantly' (John 10:10). God's pleasure in His servants' shalom is ultimately expressed in Christ's redemptive work, restoring comprehensive wholeness to fallen humanity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Who are the people 'that favour your righteous cause,' and how can you pray for their joy?
2. What does it mean for God to take 'pleasure in your prosperity,' and how does this affect your view of blessing?
3. How can you ensure your prayers focus on magnifying the LORD rather than merely receiving benefits?
4. What is the difference between circumstantial happiness and the ongoing testimony to 'let the LORD be magnified'?
5. In what ways does understanding *shalom* (comprehensive flourishing) expand your concept of God's desires for you?

Interlinear Text

יָרֵנוּ	וְשִׂמְחוּ	הֵן חֵפֵץ	צְדִיקָי	וַיֹּאמְרוּ
Let them shout for joy	and be glad	that favour	my righteous cause	yea let them say
H7442	H8055	H2655	H6664	H559
תְּמִיד	יִגְדַּל	יְהוָה	הֵן חֵפֵץ	שָׁלוֹם
continually	be magnified	Let the LORD	that favour	in the prosperity
H8548	H1431	H3068	H2655	H7965
עַבְדְּךָ:				
of his servant				
H5650				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 149:4 (References Lord): For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Psalms 40:16 (References Lord): Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

Psalms 70:4 (Parallel theme): Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

Zephaniah 3:17 (References Lord): The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Psalms 147:11 (References Lord): The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Psalms 142:7 (Righteousness): Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

Proverbs 8:18 (Righteousness): Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

1 Corinthians 12:26 (Parallel theme): And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

Romans 12:15 (Parallel theme): Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

Psalms 68:3 (Righteousness): But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

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