

Psalm 70:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. This verse shifts from personal petition (verses 1-3) to corporate worship, calling all God-seekers to rejoice in Him. 'Seek thee' (mevakshekhah, מְבַקֵּשׁךְ) describes active pursuit of God's presence—those who diligently pursue relationship with Him rather than merely acknowledging His existence. The dual response—'rejoice and be glad'—uses synonymous parallelism to intensify the call for celebration in God Himself, not merely in His gifts.

The second half addresses those who 'love thy salvation' (ohavei yeshu'atekha, אֶחָדֵי יְשׁוּעָתְךָ)—not just recipients of salvation but lovers of it, delighting in God's saving work. Their response is to 'say continually' (yomeru tamid, יִאמְרוּ תָמִיד), emphasizing persistent, ongoing declaration: 'Let God be magnified' (yigdal Elohim, יִגְדַּל אֱלֹהִים). This isn't occasional praise but constant testimony that makes God's greatness visible to the watching world.

For Christians, this verse describes the church's mission. Those who have found salvation in Christ are called to 'continually' magnify God—through worship, testimony, and godly living that displays His glory (Matthew 5:16, 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven'). The joy commanded here isn't circumstantial happiness but deep gladness rooted in God's character and salvation. Paul, imprisoned and facing

death, wrote 'Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice' (Philippians 4:4) —embodying this psalm's call to continual magnification of God.

Historical Context

The concept of 'seeking God' permeates Old Testament theology. Abraham 'called upon the name of the LORD' (Genesis 12:8), Moses 'sought the LORD' (Exodus 33:7), and David made this famous: 'One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life' (Psalm 27:4). Seeking God meant frequenting His sanctuary, prayer, meditation on Torah, and ordering one's life around covenant faithfulness.

The call to 'say continually' reflects Israel's liturgical life. Daily sacrifices, festivals, Sabbath observances, and lifecycle rituals created rhythm of ongoing testimony to God's greatness. The Jewish **mezuzah** (Deuteronomy 6:9, scrolls affixed to doorposts) and **phylacteries** (Matthew 23:5, Scripture boxes worn during prayer) physically reminded Israel to continually acknowledge God. Prayer was structured into daily life—morning and evening offerings, mealtime blessings, annual festivals —ensuring constant magnification of God.

The early church inherited and adapted these practices. Corporate worship on Sunday (resurrection day), daily prayers at set hours (Acts 3:1, the apostles maintaining Jewish prayer times), and liturgical prayers ensured continual magnification of God. The Western church developed the **Liturgy of the Hours**, while Eastern Orthodoxy maintained unceasing prayer through monasticism. The Reformation's priesthood of all believers democratized this—all Christians, not just clergy, are called to magnify God continually through word and deed. This psalm captures that vision: God's people constantly declaring His greatness, making Him visible to the world.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How actively do you 'seek' God versus passively acknowledging Him?
2. What does it look like for you to 'love salvation' rather than merely being grateful for it?
3. How can you magnify God 'continually' in daily life rather than compartmentalizing faith?
4. In what ways does your life make God's greatness visible to others?
5. How can you cultivate joy and gladness 'in God' rather than in circumstances?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר וְאֶל־יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁאֵל־יְהוָה וְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל־בָּבֶן־יְהוָה יְהִי־שְׁאֵלָה

thee rejoice and be glad H7797 H8055 H0 H3605 Let all those that seek say
H559

שְׁאֵלָה יְמִינָה לְמִינָה אֶל־יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוָה יְמִינָה לְמִינָה

continually be magnified H8548 H1431 H430 Let God in thee and let such as love thy salvation
H157 H3444

Additional Cross-References

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

Lamentations 3:25 (Parallel theme): The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

Isaiah 61:10 (Salvation): I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered

me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Psalms 35:27 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 97:12 (Parallel theme): Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

John 16:20 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

Psalms 5:11 (Love): But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

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