



Lesson #7: Free to Eternal Joy (Psalm 126)

No greater lie has probably ever been told on the face of the planet than the lie that we are all “_____.” The Bible teaches us that men and women are not born free. In fact, we are all born captive in several ways.

1. **We are born captives to _____** (Romans 3:23)
2. **We are born captives to _____** (John 8:44)
3. **We are born captives to _____** (Romans 5:12)

And so we are thrice made captive. The chains are deep around us. But God in His great mercy has released us from the chains of our captivity through the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (John 8:26).

Every believer ought to immediately be able to connect with Psalm 126. If you are a genuine believer you know the joy of true _____. This Psalm was a special psalm to the children of Israel because it reminded them of the Lord’s past work of setting them free. It is also a special Psalm to the church today. It reminds us of what the Lord has done for us in _____ us. When you are going through deep sorrow, Psalm 126 is strong medicine for your soul. It carries a powerful message of hope and eternal joy.

THE _____ OF THE SOUL SET FREE (126:1-3)

Certainly the Israelites who first sang this Psalm had much to sing about.

- A. Those who have been set free have an _____ desire to praise God**
When God delivers you big time, it can feel like a dream. That’s what verse 1 is talking about. The Jews have been set free and they couldn’t believe it! The impossible was made possible! Now they did the only thing that felt natural. They praised God for His _____ work in their lives. What a lesson for the children of God! Those who have been set free by God have so many reasons to praise God!
- B. Those who have been set free have an _____ desire to praise God**
The Israelites had been set free and they couldn’t restrain themselves. As they broke forth in joy they spoke of their freedom. They declared their liberty. They make a conscious decision to be _____ in the Lord who redeemed them (126:2-3).

THE _____ OF THE SOUL SET FREE (126:4)

As these pilgrims ponder their past and deliberate on their deliverance, they also lift their voices in prayer to the Lord. Prayer is the natural _____ for those who have been truly set free.

- A. Prayer gives us a clear _____ to God**
We have been “*brought back*,” we have been “*restored*.” Now God offers us _____ access to His throne room. More than that, He actually _____ to hear His children talk to Him (1 John 5:14).
- B. Prayer gives us a clear _____ for others**
Notice in verse 4 what these people are praying about. Those who rejoiced that they were set free in verses 1-3 now pray for those who are still in _____ in verse 4. There’s was not a prayer of concern for themselves but a prayer of concern for _____. Again, there is a word here for the church. Those who have been delivered from their sin should carry a burden for those who are still lost in sin. They should go through life with a vigor to see other souls set free just as they were set free.

THE _____ OF THE SOUL SET FREE (126:5-6)

These final verses continue the thought of the previous verses but now they put some confident foundations down for nothing is more securing than a promise from God. In these final verses 3 laws jump off the page.

- A. The law of _____**
“*They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.*” That law is going to be reiterated times in the NT (Galatians 6:7; 2 Corinthians 6:6). What you _____ you will _____.
- B. The law of _____**
I think that believers often struggle to see prayers answered because believers often pray without much _____. Psalm 126:5 teaches us that it is appropriate to be passionate in prayer. When it comes to the pattern of prayer, especially prayer for others who are captives, there ought to be a passion that accompanies that prayer.
- C. The law of _____**
Verse 5 ends with the natural outcome of all this. There is no room for _____ here. Those who act upon the laws of sowing and weeping will automatically enjoy the law of reaping.

Concluding Thoughts

Today we have examined the complex and yet very simple truth about _____. I call it “complex” and “simple” because the whole world wants joy. They seek joy, they long for joy, they do things they think will bring them joy; but all along they are still _____ and kept from joy. But we who are saved looked to Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of this Psalm for we have found true _____ and that has brought us true joy.