

March 11, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 30:5 *For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.* (NIV)

As David is calling God's people to praise Him (which frees us to serve Him), he then begins to give them reasons for this praise. The anger of the LORD is certainly real, but is momentary, while His favor (His acceptance and pleasure) lasts for a lifetime. This is a contrast given so that we can understand more the nature of our God. He is not constantly looking for ways to punish or bring His wrath down on us. Instead, He is full of mercy and grace, and He longs to bless those who will trust in Him. I have certainly had a few nights of weeping, but I've enjoyed great seasons of joy because of God's faithfulness. I love this quote by **Scott Hubbard**, "*If we were God in heaven, we would have grown impatient with people like us long ago. Our anger rises quickly in the face of personal offense. Our frustration boils over. Our judgments readily fire. And apart from the daily renewal of our minds, we can easily measure God "by that line of our own imaginations," as if his thoughts matched our thoughts, and his ways our ways. Thank God, they do not.*"

The wise words of James remind us of this as well: **James 1:19-20** *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.* (NIV) Let us do our part in following His example for us. We may have some tough times and long nights, but His promise to us is that *but rejoicing comes in the morning!*

Dear LORD, Your loving grace is what we need more than anything today. Help us to love others like You love. Help us to be so filled with Your Spirit that we can treat each other like You treat us. In Jesus Name, Amen