

The Air in Our Lungs

July 6, 2025

"Urged to a Life Of Holy Greed"

Daily Devotionals for July 7-12

Monday, July 7 Read Psalm 118

This is a song of celebration and triumph. Take a moment and list the actions, aspects and qualities of God that inspire this celebration. Have you experienced these characteristics or similar triumphs with God? If so, how do they figure in your prayer life and attitude?

Sermon Notes from 7/6/25

"Urged to a Life of Holy Greed"

1. We can rejoice in our prayers only when we accept the unearned, unexpected and unlimited reality of the Love of God.

"If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" - Matthew 7:11

2. Rejoicing in God occurs when we...

☐ ...willfully awaken our souls.

"Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name!" - Hebrews 13:15

☐ ...pray a psalm daily

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!" - Psalm 103:1-2

☐ ...worship with music

"Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer. I feel like I'm king of the mountain! (For congregational use, with a full orchestra.)" Habakkuk 3:19

☐ ...worship with others

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 15:5-6

☐ ...make connecting with God rhythmic and habitual.

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'" - Matthew 6:9-10

Tuesday July 8 Read Habakkuk 3:17-18

Far too many people anchor their faith in the emotions of the moment or on a (false) assurance that everything will go their way and then they come crashing down when challenges come. In what do you truly place your faith and reliance? How is Habakkuk able to rejoice in the face of loss and failure? Can you say the same? Why or why not?

Wednesday, July 9 Read Luke 15:11-32

We are all familiar with the Parable of the Prodigal, but take a moment to imagine yourself as the younger, failed brother. What do you feel when you are welcomed home with open arms? How did you understand the Father while you were on your way home and how do you see Him after he throws a party? How does this story affect how *you* approach God in prayer? Why?

Thursday, July 10 Read Matthew 7:7-11

Often our picture of God is of a stern (maybe even angry) parent. Sometimes that image hinders us from approaching Him as we are all too aware of our sin and shortcomings. How does Jesus aim to alter that view in this passage? How does v.11 sum up what it means to be able to come confidently to God?

Friday, July 11 Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Paul is referencing sexual immorality in the Corinthians church but the metaphor of the yeast is apt in all aspects of cultivating our spiritual life. What we add to our lives impacts how we live, view the world and respond to others. What "old yeasts" contribute to negativity (see Tuesday's reading!) to how you live? How can rejoicing in prayer clear the old yeast out and bring a new perspective?

Saturday, July 12 Read Psalm 95:1-7

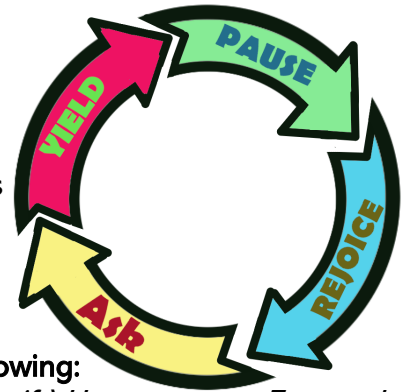
Like Psalm 118 from Monday, this song also revels in God's activity and faithfulness. What does it mean for you to "sing to the Lord...a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation (vv.1-2)?" How does your discipleship impact and shape your joy in life? Is that joy evident to the people around you?



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Week of July 6, 2025

Small Group Study & Discussion Guide



I. Getting Started:

1. **Read Psalm 118** Share: "This is a song of celebration and triumph. Take a moment and list the actions, aspects and qualities of God that inspire this celebration. Discuss the following:
 - Have you experienced these characteristics or similar triumphs with God? If so, how do they figure in your prayer life and attitude?
2. **Read Sermon Note #1 and the accompanying scripture, then discuss the following:**
 - *"God's love for us and grace toward us is the real (and only truly valuable gift) He grants us. Every other action, decision and relationship hinges on accepting and celebrating this truth." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Why is our faith often contingent on God fulfilling our personal "wish list?"*

II. Going Deeper:

1. **Read Habakkuk 3:17-18 aloud.** Share: "Far too many people anchor their faith in the emotions of the moment or on a (false) assurance that everything will go their way and then they come crashing down when challenges come." Discuss the following:
 - *In what do many people truly place their faith and reliance? How is Habakkuk able to rejoice in the face of loss and failure?*
 - *In what ways does your relationship with God create endurance and resilience in dealing with the world?*
2. **Read Sermon Note #2 & the accompanying scriptures, then discuss the following questions:**
 - *Why do we have the tendency to either see only the negative or to take God for granted? What are some ways to choose to pay more attention to God and open our spirits to His presence?*
 - *What are some of the advantages of pre-prepared prayers in general and the psalms in particular (note that the Psalms are the most quoted scriptures in the New Testament)? How can these help us focus and what might be the possible dangers?*
 - *How is prayer encouraged by appealing to all of the senses? Does anyone in the group use music or some other creative way to focus their prayer life?*
 - *How does worship and prayer with others (something that happens consistently in the scriptures) help to shape our personal connection with God? What does this say about God Himself? What does it say about humanity?*
 - *How is your prayer life a good habit and what helps shape that prayer life?*

III. Taking it With You:

1. **Before closing in prayer, share amongst the group any new or renewed prayer practices that have been tried. Share and exchange prayer concerns before you leave.**