

JOY: HIGH OCTANE FUEL

Psalms 65:1-13

June 24, 2007 Sunday p.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Last week I confessed that my spiritual tank is sometimes running on empty. That is, I continue to worship and do the things Christians are supposed to do, but the joy is often gone. Its as though I'm simply going through the motions. Maybe you have felt this way too.
- B. We examined what King David has to say about spiritual dryness and running on empty in his 42nd Psalm. There we saw two things.
 1. The causes of spiritual dryness.
 - a. Physical exhaustion.
 - b. Depression.
 - c. Opposition by others.
 - d. Failure to worship or Faulty worship.
 - e. Sin.
 2. The cure for spiritual dryness.
 - a. First, you need the desire to stop running on empty-v.1-2.
How?
Question? Do you sing because you're happy or are you happy because you sing?
Answer: Sometimes one, sometimes the other.
Suggestion: Sing even when you don't feel like singing because often the action creates the feeling. The same is true for worship and service.
 - b. Second, realize the situation and your feelings are not hopeless-5a. "hope" and "yet".
 - c. Third, remember how it used to be with you and God-v.4.
 - d. Fourth, either way, remember God still loves you-8.
- C. Tonight lets look at another one of David's Psalms-65th.
 1. Its about praise (v.1) and joy (v.8b, 13b). Joy is the fuel Christians need in their spiritual tanks.
 2. In this Psalm, David tells us where joy comes from.
 3. Joy, according to David in this Psalm, comes from a proper perspective of who God is and what He does for us.
- D. Fanny Crosby died in 1915. She was blinded in an accident as an infant. She went on to write hundreds of hymns, 17 of which are in our Baptist hymnal. Hymns like...
 - #4 "To God Be the Glory".
 - #62 "All the Way My Savior Leads Me".
 - #290 "I Am Thine O Lord".
 - #559 "Rescue the Perishing".When she was eight years old she wrote the following verse...
 - Oh what a happy child I am, although I cannot see.
 - I am resolved that in this world, contented I will be.
 - How many blessings I enjoy that other people don't.
 - To weep and sigh because I'm blind, I cannot and I won't.
- E. Where does such joy and contentment come from? David says in this 65th Psalm from remembering two things about God.

I. FIRST, JOY COMES FROM REMEMBERING WHAT GOD DOES FOR US.

- A. First, God hears our prayers-v.2
Jeremiah 33:3. Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'
- B. Second, God forgives our sins-v.3.

Isaiah 1:18. Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

C. Third, God communes with us in worship-v.4a.

Matt. 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

D. Fourth, God blesses us in life-v.4b.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

E. Fifth, God fills us with hope-v.5b..

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

II. SECOND, JOY COMES FROM REMEMBERING GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS.

A. In Creation-v.6-7a (Genesis 1:1).

B. In Conflict-v.7b-8a.

C. In Concern-v9-13.

CONCLUSION

A. We need our spiritual tanks filled with joy.

B. Joy, David says, comes from remembering what God has done for us.