

[SG Text]

God's Song of Joy

(Zephaniah 3:17)

What does God rejoice in? In the Bible, we see many different ways that God rejoices. He rejoiced when He created the heavens and the earth, He rejoiced sincerely when He made humans in His image, and He rejoices when a sinner repents and returns to Him, like a master searching for a lost sheep. Today's verse is a song of love and joy God sings for us. I invite you to share in the message as you try to picture the expression on God's face.

As you reflect on the past week, share one of your favorite life-sharing moments.

1. When you think of God, what picture comes to mind? God sings five different songs to us in this passage: First, the Lord your God is in your midst. Second, God is the Almighty who will save. Third, God will not let your joy be overcome. Fourth, God loves you with a secret love. Fifth, God rejoices in you, singing for joy. Which of these five aspects of God's love for us have you experienced in your life? Which of these aspects of God do you need most right now?
2. What picture comes to mind when you think of God rejoicing and singing for joy over us? What changes have occurred in your life since you realized that God loves you with all his heart? What changes do you require to recognize that even those you are uncomfortable with can be the object of God's song of joy?
3. The fact that God loves us and is pleased with us, in and of itself, tells us that our existence is worthwhile. No matter the realities of our lives, if we know that God is looking at us and smiling, we can find the strength to get back up, love life, and cherish any person. Then we will experience a life of deep contentment and joy and sing about the beautiful life God has given us. Let's pray for each other that this kind of life will be our daily reality.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness,
quiet you with his love; he will rejoice over you with loud singing.

-Zephaniah 3:17-