

BOOK OF JAMES
ARE YOU MERRY?—SING PSALMS!
JAMES 5:13b

Introduction

James indicates in *verse 13-20* here that there are different things that come into our life: There are times when we are afflicted, there are times when we are merry, there are times when we are sick, there are times when we are not right and we must get right! No doubt we all have had each of these things at one time or another in our lives!

Last week we looked at **what we are to do when we are going through afflictions! We are to pray!**

Tonight we are on a much more cheery note! We like cheery don't we!

"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13b).

I thank God that He balances our lives with days of merriment that cause us to sing to help offset some of the times of affliction that we face in this life!

But maturity in the life of Believers is shown when we are in the midst of affliction and yet our hearts are merry enough with what the LORD has done for us that we can sing while we are suffering.

Anybody can sing after the trouble has passed. But the LORD is able to give us *"songs in the night"* as Elihu, one of Job's friends, told Job in *Job 35:10*.

Remember how He did this for Paul and Silas when they were chained and suffering for Jesus sake in that Philippian jail.
Acts 16:25—"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God and the prisoners heard them"

Praying and singing were important elements in worship in the early church, and they should be important to us. We might be in dire circumstances because of the suffering of in this old flesh! But our singing ought to be an expression of our inner spiritual life!

The believer's praise should be intelligent and not just the mouthing of words or ideas that are coming from his lips that mean nothing to him.

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1 Corinthians 14:15 **What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.**

Romans 8:26 **Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

Ephesians 5:18-19 **And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

Our singing should come from our heart!

Our singing should come from our a heart that is motivated by the Holy Spirit!

Our singing should be Scripture based!

Colossians 3:16 **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

Singing for the Lord is NOT to be based on the clever ideas of men!

If a song is not Biblical, it is not acceptable to God!

If a song is not acceptable to God, it ought not to be acceptable with us!

Psalms 19:14 **Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.**

Back to our text:

"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13b).

I. THE WORD "MERRY".

"Merry" means "to be CHEERFUL"

It denotes *a pleasantness, agreeableness.*

It suggests *a state of mind free from trouble—the opposite of affliction—happy!*

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**II. IN SUCH A STATE OF CHEERFULNESS OR HAPPINESS,
ONE SHOULD SING PRAISES!**

Psalms = means to sing songs; to make melody and comes from a word that means to rub or touch the surface

That's what singing and making melody in our hearts does!
It rubs or massages our hearts...it touches our hearts!

A. Singing Praises Is Becoming Of God's People!

Consider what the sweet Psalmist of Israel penned:

Psalm 92:1-2 It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: 2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

Psalm 96:1-2 O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.2 Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.

Psalm 101:1 I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing.

Psalm 103:1ff

Psalm 111:1 Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.

Psalm 113:1-3 Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. 2 Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. 3 From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.

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Psalm 146:1-2 Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. 2 While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Psalm 147:1 Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely.

Psalm 149:1 Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

David was a man after God's own heart, shouldn't we be also?

Singing Praises Is Becoming Of God's People!

B. Singing Praises Has The Power To Make A Good Situation Even Better!

III. WHY DON'T SOME CHRISTIANS SING PRAISES MORE OFTEN, MORE FERVENTLY?

A. When Folks Don't Sing, I Sometimes Think, Are They That "Afflicted"? Hasn't God Done Enough In Our Lives To Prompt Us To Want To Praise Him Fervently In Song?

B. What Excuse Can We Possibly Give For Refusing To Praise God For His Glory And His Goodness To Us?

1. We cannot use the excuse that we cannot sing!

Psalm 100:1-5 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

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2. **God "commands" all to sing, and unless we are "mute" the command applies to us!**
3. **Fortunately, God is not concerned with how it sounds, but that it is coming from the heart, therefore all who can speak can and should sing!**

D. Heaven Is Described By John In The Book Of The Revelation As A Place Where Singing Praises To God And Christ Is An On-Going Activity! (Revelation 5:9-14; 19:1-7)
I wonder if some folks are going to feel out of place with that!

Conclusion

Singing praises to God is just as important as praying to God!

Psalm 50:23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Do you think that perhaps our prayers would be answered more often, if we would praise God more often!

How about let's get merry and sing psalms! If we think upon our LORD and what He HAS done and what HE IS DOING and what HE IS GOING TO DO! That ought to get our heart MERRY and in the mood to SING PSALMS!