

# Faith Has Caught the Joyful Sound

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2005 Higher Ground  
June 16, 2005

## **Introduction**

**Psalm 89:15-18** – *“Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O Lord, in the light of Your countenance. In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.”*

What is the ‘joyful sound’? Eerdmans commentary on the Old Testament says that it is “the festive sound of joy of the mouth (Numbers 23:21; Psalm 27:6), and of trumpets or sackbuts.” From all indications it is the natural response to that which would stimulate joy and excitement. Whatever was available at the time would be used. If only the natural use of the voice, then a shout would be most appropriate. If there was a musical device available, such as a trumpet or horn, that would be even better as it would sound louder and reverberate on a larger scale. The point was not quality of sound but quantity. It wasn’t about music, but about noise. And we understand this concept fully. When we are at the ballgame and our hometown team wins in the final seconds of the game, then we shout with joy in our excitement. Perhaps we are driving in the car and we hear those last seconds of victory on the radio. What do we do? Honk the horn! It is completely natural to want to make noise when we are ignited with elation.

So how might we make application? From the text we see that those who “*know the joyful sound*” are a blessed people. The text further reveals to us who these “*blessed*” people are. They are people who “*walk in the light of (God’s) countenance; rejoice all day long; and are exalted in righteousness.*” The following three points will attempt to explain these concepts more fully.

## **I. They Walk In The Light of Your Countenance**

*“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all”* (1 John 1:5). In a snapshot of heaven’s glory Revelation 22:5 gives us a glimpse of our Lord’s countenance, “*And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*” Also consider Revelation 21:23: “*And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the lamb.*” I can vividly remember while playing baseball, trying to catch a fly ball that gets lost in the sun. It was so bright that I was literally blinded in its luster. I cannot imagine the radiance of God’s glory. What’s even more magnificent is that we have been afforded the opportunity to share in this light. Jesus said, “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*” We have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) where we walk in fellowship with Him and one another (1 John 1:7). Paul says it all in Ephesians 5:8, “*for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...*”

It is no wonder then that a “*blessed people*” who has been brought into the Light of God’s countenance from the darkness of this world’s lair knows the joyful sound!

“We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

“Spread the tidings all around; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

“Give the winds a mighty voice, Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

“Let the nations now rejoice – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

“Shout salvation full and free; highest hills and deepest caves;”

“This our song of victory – Jesus saves! Jesus saves!”

## II. They Rejoice All Day Long

“*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice!*” (Philippians 4:4). Christ’s people should be a happy people. Through command, examples and many inferences we see that the first generation Christians, even amid wicked persecution, were people who delighted in their faith (Romans 12:12; Philippians 2:17-18; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:13). I am often concerned about the image many Christians today portray with their negative, critical, and ‘poor-pitiful-me’ attitudes and dispositions. One of our greatest tools in sharing Christ with others is that of being salt and light in the dark, tasteless world around us. As we ponder our redemption from the bondage of sin, now sharing in fellowship with our Savior and anticipating the day when we will surround the throne of God with the innumerable host for an eternity (1 Peter 1:3-6)...again it is no wonder that we, a “*blessed people*” know the joyful sound!

“I’m happy today, oh yes, I’m happy today; in Jesus Christ I’m happy today, because He’s taken all my sins away, and that’s why I’m happy today.”

## III. They Are Exalted In Righteousness

“*Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.*” (Luke 18:10-14)

This biblical concept of being lifted up or exalted seems like an oxymoron. It flies in the face of what our society would have us to believe concerning fame and prestigious recognition. It even baffled the disciples of Jesus during his ministry. Although difficult to make practical, it is not difficult to understand: If we want to be lifted up, we must be a righteous people. God must be at the helm of our lifeboat, guiding and directing us in all that we do. To allow him to take that lead, we must be willing to deny ourselves in the fullest manifestation of humility.

Indeed, a “*blessed people*”, who has been exalted by God, know the joyful sound.

“Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord...and He will lift you up!” (James 4:10)