

Taking Delight in The Presence of GOD in Everyday Moments
with Brother Lawrence

PSALM 149:1-9

The LORD takes delight in His people!

¹ ...Sing to The LORD a new song,
a hymn in the assembly of the faithful.
² Let Israel be glad in their maker,
the people of Zion rejoice in their king.

The LORD takes delight in His people!

³ Let them praise his name in festive dance,
make music with tambourine and lyre.
⁴ For the LORD takes delight in his people,
honors the poor with victory.

The LORD takes delight in His people!

⁵ Let the faithful rejoice in... glory,
cry out for joy at their banquet,
⁶ With the praise of God in their mouths...
⁹ ...such is the glory of all God's faithful. Hallelujah! ¹

Taking Delight in The LORD

The LORD takes delight in His people! And indeed we are, if we are covered in The Righteousness of The Blood of The Lamb, JESUS CHRIST. A Carmelite lay religious, Brother Lawrence (1614-1691) found profound delight in awareness of, and conversation with, GOD in the everyday works and moments of daily life, both in The Holy and in the mundane, serving as a cook for decades in his monastery's kitchen. ²

GOD calls us to live in daily conversation before His Presence. Brother Lawrence observed "...that all consists in one hearty renunciation of everything which we are sensible does not lead to GOD; that we might accustom ourselves to a continual conversation with Him, with freedom and in simplicity. That we need only to recognize GOD intimately present with us, to address ourselves to Him every moment..."

Why? "...that we may beg His assistance for knowing His will in things doubtful, and for rightly performing those which we plainly see He requires of us, offering them to Him before we do them, and giving Him thanks when we have done. ...in this conversation with GOD, we are also employed in praising, adoring, and loving Him incessantly, for His infinite goodness and perfection." ³

A Prayer with Brother Lawrence

"O my GOD, since Thou art with me, and I must now, in obedience to Thy Commands, apply my mind to these outward things, I beseech Thee to grant me The Grace to continue in Thy Presence; and to this end do Thou prosper me with Thy assistance, receive all my works, and possess all my affections." ⁴ May we too always take delight in The LORD in our daily lives!. AMEN.

¹ NAB, PSALM 149:1-9

² Brother Lawrence (c. 1614 - 1691) was a lay brother in a Carmelite monastery, who is today most commonly remembered for the closeness of his relationship to GOD as recorded in the classic Christian text, "The Practice of The Presence of GOD."

³ Brother Lawrence, "The Practice of The Presence of GOD," Fourth Conversation, 4th & 5th sentences. The Prayer Foundation. http://www.prayerfoundation.org/booktexts/z_brother_lawrence_04.htm.

⁴ Brother Lawrence, "The Practice of The Presence of GOD," Fourth Conversation, 30th sentence. The Prayer Foundation. http://www.prayerfoundation.org/booktexts/z_brother_lawrence_04.htm.