

GREAT JOY, DEEP ROOTS

May 20, 2023

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Psalm 92

Memory Verse

"It is wonderful to be grateful and to sing your praises, Lord Most High! It is wonderful each morning to tell about your love and at night to announce how faithful you are." (CEV)

Psalm 92:1-2



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Your big sister comes home from college. A little brother takes his first steps. Your team wins a championship. A parent says yes to a puppy. Do you ever feel so happy that joy bubbles up inside you and bursts out? Maybe you laugh, sing, wiggle, or dance. Maybe you throw your arms around someone you love. Moments like these may not happen every day, but when they do, we remember them. They bring a smile to our faces days, months, and even years later.

The psalm writer takes great joy in God's faithfulness, praising him day and night. When we praise God, we share his goodness with others. Praising God also helps us grow deep roots of gratitude that can last for a lifetime. At the end of Psalm 92, the psalmist says "good people prosper like palm trees," "grow strong like cedars," and "take root in your house, Lord God . . . They will be like trees that stay healthy and fruitful even when they are old." When we walk through a forest, we see towering trunks, reaching branches, and waving leaves stretching toward the sky. But there's much more to a tree than what we see with our eyes. These

majestic green giants can't survive without the underground root systems that feed, support, and connect them to each other, especially during times of drought, flood, fire, or cold.

Life contains both happiness and hardship. Just as trees store extra water and nutrients in their roots to nourish each other in dry or frigid times, we too build deep roots of faith when we share our happiness with one another. Even in hard times, we remember God's great love for us never changes. So go ahead! Dance, giggle, and shout for joy to the Lord! Let your happiness bubble *up* to praise God and reach *down* to strengthen your faith.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for moments of happiness that delight our souls. We rejoice in your great love. May our joy be contagious to others and grow deep roots of faith that strengthen your children in happy and hard times. Amen.

written by Sara Korber-DeWeerd

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/great-joy-deep-roots>

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