

**TAKE DELIGHT IN GOD**

*Psalm 40:1-11 NRSV || 1 Corinthians 1:1-10 NLT*

**MONDAY 1/16/2023**

Psalm 40:1-11 // (1-2) I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (1-2) This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes. 2 I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be his own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as he did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.

**REFLECTION**

At first glance verse one seems to be a very ordinary sentence introducing the author. It is, however, far more gripping of a statement. Paul has the authority and favor of God to preach the good news of Christ Jesus. We too, who have found favor, will take delight in being God's chosen ones. Paul is a Jew, who was converted to Christianity by the hand of God one afternoon. Instead of condemning Christ, in his former life, now is dedicated to doing the will of Christ. Paul takes delight in doing the will of God because he has been forgiven and loved by Jesus. In the Corinth he is affirming the message that God has restored His relationship with any one who accepts His Son Jesus Christ. You might not know this, but Paul is the most powerful evangelist in the New Testament Bible. He has greatly suffered for doing so, just like his fellow brother Sosthenes. The story is told both have been bodily beaten for sharing their faith. In today's terms, it would be like "being canceled". When we embrace being children of God we are claiming something very profound. We are affirming, to the people we live among, that we are God's own, holy people. God has made us holy by means of His Son Christ Jesus. I hope you are able to fully understand and accept the power of this statement. When we do, we will be "delighted to do the will of God". You will begin to shine the light of Christ's love in all your relationships. (see John 15:16)

**PRAYER** *Hear my prayer O LORD for you are my rock and the foundation of my life. Guide my foot steps this day so I may shine your love upon others.* In Jesus Name Amen (IJNA)

**TUESDAY 1/17/2023**

Psalm 40:1-11 // (3-4) He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. 4 Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (3-4) May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. 4 I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus.

**REFLECTION**

At every Sunday worship I give a salutation to acknowledge God and His good works and our need for His help. Paul is doing the same thing by reminding the people of Corinth that they have received peace and love from Christ. Romans 1:7: "who are loved by God and called to be saints." Why is this so important each week to hear this message? Well, it affirms that we belong to Christ. If I am to, "take delight in doing God's will," I must first be confident I am God's loved child. God's gracious gift is the foundation of every kind of blessing we obtained the moment we accept Christ. The term 'grace' means favor of God. This gift is awarded to us gratuitously. Meaning, there is no good reason but by the soul favor of God we are loved. When I hear that "I take great delight in doing God's will."

## TUESDAY 1/17/2023 CONTINUED

What happens to us when we accept God's grace? Every area of our life is enriched with goodness and peace. Specifically we discover in the articles of faith and in the Word of God that we are richly blessed. We are transformed to naturally love one another. As a freed Christians, we thrive to live in and out of God's grace. My life is filled with more joy in part because I receive far more than I give. I regard God's grace my most valuable possession.

**PRAYER Heavenly Father, help me to put my trust in you so I may experience the overwhelming power of your grace. I sing praises to your Son. IJNA**

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## WEDNESDAY 1/18/2023

Psalm 40:1-11 // (5-6) You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted. 6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (5-6) Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. 6 This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true.

### REFLECTION

Today's Psalm tells us that God has multiplied His wondrous deeds toward us. How has He done that? Paul reminds us that God has enriched us with blessing in our faith community with wisdom and knowledge. Our Father allows us the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The most obvious gift is each of us is a living testimony of Christ resurrection and new life. "I take delight in doing God's will," because in the church I have found hope for the future. There, I have people helping me grow in my faith. As I walk with them, I see Christ in them, as they see Christ in me. The word of God sealed the truth of His gospel in the hearts and mind of the Corinthians. This is done in two ways, either by miracles of healing or by the inward testimony of the Holy Spirit from a person. I can say with confidence as Christians we are living miracles by the hand of God.

**PRAYER O LORD God, all of your wondrous deeds fill the whole world. There is no place I can go and you will not be there. Assist me today in expressing your love for those I live with. IJNA**

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## THURSDAY 1/19/2023

Psalm 40:1-11 // (7-9) Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. 40:I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." 9 I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (7-8) Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.

### REFLECTION

"I take delight in doing God's will," because I have discovered that God has given me a gift to share with others. The Spirit of God seals in our consciousness the supreme knowledge, beginning with the effectiveness of the gospel. I have been changed as a person from a pagan to a child of God. The internal influence of the Spirit offers a variety of gifts, but the most powerful is when a person gives a testimony of Jesus Christ as Lord. Colossians 2:2 My goal is that their hearts, having been knit together in love, may be encouraged, and that they may have all the riches that assurance brings in their understanding of the knowledge of the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Our God honors us with the knowledge and acceptance of the resurrected Christ. God exceedingly supports us with His grace by helping us move out into the world with the message of love, peace and hope.

**PRAYER Here I am Lord Jesus, I am yours. Open my heart so I may be enlightened by the spiritual gifts you have given to me. May I better accept the joyful news of my salvation. Praise you Lord Jesus for having set me free. IJNA**

## FRIDAY 1/20/2023

Psalm 40:1-11 // (10 ) I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (9) God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### REFLECTION

This glorious purity that comes from God is not yet perfected in us. We are still prone to sin. Rather, this message of grace goes with us every day, in hope we make some small progress. Our partnership with Christ is only the beginning of our faith journey. I can say with confidence that I am getting a little better. But here is the important thing: those who improve know if they don't get better, Jesus still loves us and never will abandon us. That gives me the freedom I need to get better. Yes, I get exposed to God's displeasure and know when I need an act of repentance. But, thank goodness I know how to negotiate the landmines. *2 Peter 1:5 -7,9 Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness. and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.* And this is why "I take delight in doing the will of God".

In Christ, all our of past, present and future sins have been forgiven. So does that mean I take advantage of this? Heaven forbid, no. On the day of the Lord's return we shall all be made whiter than snow.

**Prayer Lord God of might and strength, you have not hidden your love for me. Blessed is your Name. Continue to give me more confidence in my faith and speaking freely about my new found freedom. IJNA**

## SATURDAY 1/14/2023

Psalm 40:1-11 // (11) Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

1 Corinthians 1:1-10 // (10) I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

### REFLECTION

Paul now takes time to address the hostility that caused division among the people. In today's time, we understand very well what division does to a community. True faith does not cause division but brings unity and peace in Christ. Paul urges us, in the name of Christ, that we love him by being conscious to promoting harmony and truth. To accomplish this Paul teaches us to have the mind of Christ. This is readily given by the Holy Spirit. In other words we are to have one voice. The Spirit enjoins us to be harmonious in respect for others but also we need to be stand firm with Christ teaching of mercy and forgiveness. The grace of God is great and our faith is strengthen by it. When division occurs we should be aware of what is taking place. Chaos and anger is not from the Lord. Evil is about disunity and brokenness. When we are split apart, we are damaging our witness. Our new nature in Christ creates a new harmony among ourselves with one mind and one heart in mind. We ought to desire the fruit of Christian harmony. Nothing is more erratic than being in a disagreement among ourselves. A main objective of our faith is to be of one mind and one heart. Being in harmony among ourselves creates a safe place for people to be in unison. What is required of us to maintain unity as Christians? One thing is for sure "we take delight in doing the will of God". We see the world through the eyes of Christ.

**PRAYER O LORD Jesus please do not withhold your mercy from me. I ask now your steadfast love fill my mind so I may**

