



“God’s Past and Future Mercy”

Psalm 126
April 12, 2026

The Big Idea: Psalm 126 moves from gratitude for all the great things God has done in the past to a faith-driven prayer that God would do great things again. It calls us to live lives of faithful service while trusting that God will give blessings and fill us with joy.

The Occasion of the Psalm

- As with all the Psalms of Ascent, it was a song of the spiritually faithful.
- It is a song of Zion, celebrating the presence of God in the holy city of Jerusalem.
- It is a song of thanksgiving (for what God had done) and a song of hope (for what we long for Him to do again).
- It is a missionary song that reminds them that when God receives the Glory, the nations notice and God’s people are filled with gladness.

Psalm 126 (ESV)

126 A SONG OF ASCENTS.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- 5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- 6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

BIBLICAL TRUTHS FOR GOD’S PEOPLE:

1. The act of remembering God’s faithfulness is an important spiritual discipline that establishes a foundation for our lives today.
[Deuteronomy 8:2; Isaiah 46:9; Psalm 63:5-7; Luke 22:19]
2. As we remember, we get to tell the stories of all those times when God did what only God could do.
[Psalm 77:11-12; Deuteronomy 7:18]
3. When we give proper praise to God for all He has done even the spiritually lost will take notice and name the Lord as the One who did these things for His people.
[Psalm 105:1-4]
4. Gladness and joy have always marked the lives of the children of God. True joy is present even in the midst of hard times and sorrow.
[Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 92:4; Psalm 100:1-2; Romans 12:21]
5. The Lord invites His people to look to Him in sincere and faith-filled prayer, asking Him to renew us and restore us. Our part is to return to the Lord.
[Psalm 85:6; Psalm 51:10; James 4:8]

QUESTIONS WE ALL NEED TO ASK

- ✓ Do I regularly thank God for His blessings in the past or do I only complain about my circumstances in the present?
- ✓ Am I praying that spiritually lost people will see the Lord working in my life and want to know more about Him?
- ✓ Am I seeking the Lord each day, asking him to bring spiritual renewal to me and to our church?
- ✓ Do I believe God will still do things only He can do? Am I asking for those things?
- ✓ Am I committed to the hard work (sowing) of everyday life and serving the Lord, believing that God will fill me with joy as I trust Him for the harvest (reaping)? [Deuteronomy 8:17-18]

“If you can explain what is going on
God did not do it.”

▪ Bob Cook
