

# The Joy of the Gathering

*Psalm 122*

## Historical Background:

- Psalm 122 is one of the **Songs of Ascent** sung by Jewish pilgrims on their way to **Jerusalem**.
  - The temple was where **God's presence** uniquely dwelled (Psalm 132:13).
  - In Christ, the temple is fulfilled — *He is the presence of God among His people* (John 1:14; Hebrews 10:11–14; 1 Corinthians 3:16).
  - The gathered church is now the **dwelling place of God** and a preview of the **New Jerusalem**.
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## 1. Gather with Joyful Anticipation (vv. 1–2)

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’”

- Joy in the **presence of God** – Our ultimate joy comes from meeting with Him.
- Joy in the **people of God** – We gather as a family in Christ.
- Joy in **embodied worship** – Worship is meant to be shared **in person**, not replaced with digital substitutes (Hebrews 10:24–25).

**Key Thought:** True joy is stirred by the **invitation of others** and the **collective desire** to worship.

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## 2. Gather with Rightful Priorities (vv. 3–5)

- Worship is founded on **obedience** – God commands us to gather.
- Worship involves **submission** – We place ourselves under Christ's rule through His Word.

- Focus is on **God's glory**, not personal gain (John 4:23–24).

**Key Thought:** We don't gather primarily for what we **get** but for what we **give** — the glory God deserves.

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### 3. Gather with Covenantal Love (vv. 6–9)

- Covenant with **God** means covenant with **God's children** (Romans 12:5).
- We love the church because **Christ loves the church** (Ephesians 5:25).
- Seeking the peace, protection, and growth of the church flows from a **heart of gratitude** for what God has done.

**Key Thought:** Covenant community isn't about finding people who fit you — it's about being faithful to the people God has given you.

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### Reflection & Response Questions

1. How can I cultivate a deeper sense of **joy and anticipation** when gathering with God's people?
2. Am I gathering with the **right priorities**, focused on worshiping God rather than personal gain?
3. How can I **actively engage** in worship each week (singing, praying, giving, serving)?
4. How can I show **covenantal love** to others in the church, even when it's difficult or inconvenient?