

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word. I am praying that it will calm your spirit and encourage your heart right now.

PSALM 46 (NIV)

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy place where the Most High *dwells*.
⁵ God is *within* her, she will not fall;
God will *help* her at break of day.

— PART 2 —

“*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God*” — this river in Psalm 46 calls to mind another river, described in an earlier Psalm, the Psalm that is the favorite of many people. **It is a river that brings serenity, tranquility, rest and replenishment — and it even flows in a moment of time when death rears its ugly head, and dominates our attention:**

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ **he refreshes my soul.**
⁴ Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me...
PSALM 46 (NIV)

“*whose streams make glad the city of God*” — **this river (and the streams flowing from it) conveys joy. It has the capacity to “make us glad”!**

So we cry out, **“Father, send your river! Send your streams! We sense the presence of evil in our world; pour over us your gladness and joy!”**

When Jesus came, he also promised a river:

JOHN 7:37-39 (NIV)

Jesus stood and said in a loud voice,
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said,
rivers of living water will flow from within them.”
By this he meant **the Spirit...**

In God’s Word we also hear Father telling his beloved son that **he “pours gladness over you”** — that **he “anoints you with the oil of joy”** (Psalm 45:7, Hebrews 1:9).

So we ask Him, ***“Pour your joy over all your children! Anoint each one of us with ‘the oil of gladness’! Pour out on us your Spirit . . . your Breath . . . your Life!”***

“the holy place where the Most High dwells” — This river locates the home of God. Where God lives, there is a river that transforms our troubles into joy.

“God is ***within*** her, she will not fall; God will ***help*** her at break of day.” — We are not alone. God is with us. He lives “within” his children. So we can count on the promise that He will help us . . . and that help is coming sooner than we expect!”

::

So we cry out, ***“Come, Lord Jesus, come!”***
“POUR GLADNESS OVER US!”

::

May God’s joy and gladness be poured out on you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at info@bethanyonline.net

P.P.S. Keep checking this page — we will try to post fresh encouragement ***every day*** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for more encouragement.