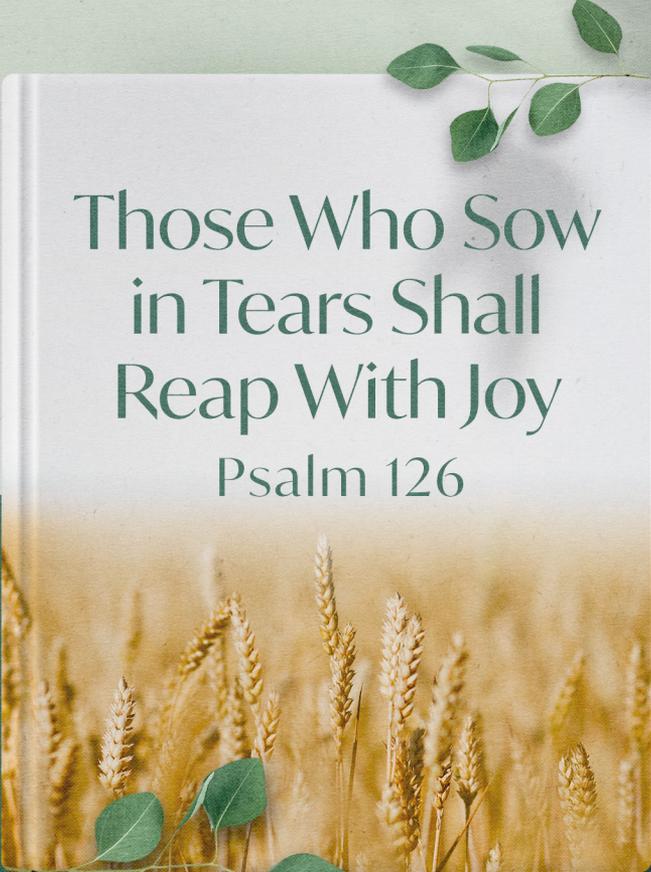


The Psalms

Songs to Keep Your Life in Tune



Those Who Sow in Tears Shall Reap With Joy

Psalm 126



Message Guide | November 15, 2020

Those Who Sow in Tears Shall Reap With Joy

Today's Message (15 November 2020) / Psalm 126

Whether it's the church or your life, we must always believe with all our hearts that we must "not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). For our God makes all things beautiful in its time (Eccles. 3:11).

Psalm 126 is a community lament that recalls a previous time of God's mercy on His people (v. 1) and asks for a fresh show of that mercy (v. 4). Similarly, God's people may take encouragement from past events of mercy and pray for more of it. The memory of those singing, laughter-filled days of the past becomes, not nostalgia, but the ground of a strong hope for even better days to come. Note how this can become as true for us, as it was for them:

1. PRAISE GOD FOR ALL YOUR PAST BLESSINGS (vv. 1-3)

- What is described here is one of the greatest revivals in the Bible – the revival at the Watergate when the people begged Ezra to “bring out the Book” (Neh. 8:1). Even hostile nations recognized the gracious hand of God behind it!
- Grateful believers don't necessarily have the best circumstances. But they are thriving despite their situations because they see the loving hand of God in everything. Be able to thank God for the trials and training (discipline) too. They are meant for your good, and not your harm.

2. PLEAD WITH GOD ABOUT YOUR PRESENT TRIALS (v.4)

- What they remember about the past, they now pray for in the present. They plead with God for the complete the return of all exiles, like the longed-for return of rain in the desert causing it to bloom.
- Life is full of bitter-sweet celebrations. It is a way for God to remind us we're no longer home, and just passing through. But it is from a desire for God's exaltation and love for others that their hearts are broken. When what breaks God's heart breaks ours too, we are on the right track. And prayer is the way to reach His heart about our present trials.

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3. PERSIST WITH GOD UNTIL YOU REAP IN THE FUTURE (vv. 5-6)

- Reaping with joy is always preceded by sowing in tears. This principle of sowing and reaping is affirmed in Galatians 6:7-9 in all its positive and negative implications. In anything you do as a believer, realize that the best victories are often gained after the most painful struggles.
- This passage is a good reminder of how spiritual awakenings happen. How can we see a mighty revival in our day? Any awakening is a sovereign movement of God, who cannot be manipulated or controlled. Nevertheless, there are certain forerunners of revival:
 - 1) *Prayer*. Prayer is the primary forerunner of any revival. It is in humble intercession that the church acknowledges it is totally dependent upon the grace of God.
 - 2) *Preaching*. Any awakening has always been accompanied by a return to strong, biblical teaching and preaching that exalts Christ and exposes sin. There has never been a “Word-less” revival.
 - 3) *Purity*. Revival always requires a time of sin-confessing, sin-rejecting repentance. The Holy Spirit will never work through unholy people. Only in lowering themselves before God can there be an exaltation of the saints by God.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Even as we have reopened the church there are many who want to come but cannot, and there are those who can, but will not (perhaps for good reasons). This pandemic has sown fear but we will not give in to fear. The lockdown has shut down many businesses but it cannot shut down God's church. And whether it's the church or your life, we must always believe with all our hearts that we must “not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9). For our God makes all things beautiful in its time (Eccles. 3:11).

GROUP/FAMILY Discussion Questions

1. How can an attitude of gratitude for past blessings help you weather present trials?
2. In what way are most blessings during our earthly life, really mixed blessings? When will a Christian's joy and blessings be full and complete (Hebrews 11:16)?
3. Does the principle of sowing and reaping also apply to unsaved people? Can you use the law of sowing and reaping to explain the material success of taipans and tycoons?
4. Pray together and ask God to help you all be willing to wait in faith for God's perfect time to reap, as you patiently sow in His strength and favor.

How can we be involved in God's mission today?

- A good summary to answer this question would be Overseas Missionary Fellowship's (OMF) "Six Ways to Reach God's World". As a church, we can:
1. **GO:** Serving God in a different culture
 2. **SEND:** Send missionaries through encouragement, logistics and finance
 3. **WELCOME:** Care and befriend those who come for work, study or a new life
 4. **MOBILIZE:** Share the vision of God's mission with people you know
 5. **LEARN:** Explore and study what God has stirred up in your heart for mission
 6. **PRAY:** Commit to praying for a specific missionary, ministry, or people group

Here are some ways we can be engaged in God's mission as a scattered church today!

I. Praying for the Scattered Church: The Hindu People

Our prayer focus for this week are the Hindus. It is our prayer that Hindu people would come to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus. So kindly download the Hindu Prayer Guide this week via GCF's Missionary Care (MCare) facebook, [facebook.com/gcfmcare](https://www.facebook.com/gcfmcare). We shall be posting weekly prayer guides every Tuesday and so kindly follow us on facebook. Don't forget to download the guide and pray for the Hindu people together with your family and your Growth Group. Let us make this a weekly habit!

II. Invite a missionary to your online Growth Group meeting!

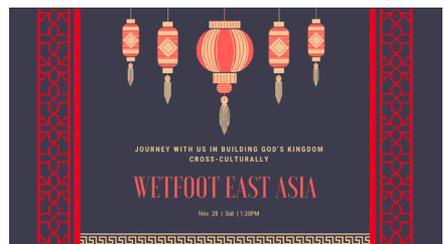
Another way to be involved in mission is through our missionaries. Have you recently reached out to one of our

supported missionaries in GCF? If not then would you consider inviting one of our missionaries to your online Growth Group meeting so that you can be updated with how they are doing as well as to lovingly support and pray for them? The Missionary Care (MCare) ministry of our church aims to develop and sustain a vibrant MCare movement among GCFers and envisions by God's grace and for His glory that all GCFers would joyfully, passionately, continuously work together to provide holistic care to its missionaries. So please, send us a message and consider inviting a missionary to your online meeting.

Let us know if you desire to invite a missionary to your GG by emailing us at mdm@gcf.org.ph, or messaging us via sms/ viber at 0917-8919057.

III. Wetfoot: East Asia

Lastly, another way to be involved in God's mission is by being equipped and made aware of the state of God's mission today. This November, we shall be asking ourselves how involved and aware are we as a church in reaching the whole of East Asia with the good news of Christ. So join us and ready your luggage as we embark on a new adventure to learn more about our beloved region this November 28, Saturday, at 1:30 PM. See you there!



CHURCH UPDATES

GCF RELIEF OPERATIONS FOR #UlyssesPH VICTIMS

We are accepting CASH donations for the typhoon victims. Email a copy of your transaction slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject "Typhoon Ulysses"

EMMANUEL — GCF CHRISTMAS MUSICALE 2020

Celebrate Christ with us on December 20, 2020. Invite your friends and family as we proclaim the good news, God with us!

ELECTION OF CHURCH LEADERS

Church members can visit election.gcf.org.ph to see the list of candidates for the Board of Elders and Council of Deacons.

PRE-REGISTER FOR THE IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE

To know more about the safety guidelines and restrictions, and to reserve a seat, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GCFreservation>. Pre-registration is open every week from Wednesday (5:00pm) to Saturday (11:59pm) or upon full booking, whichever comes first.

BELONGING (Midweek Series): THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS IN A BROKEN WORLD

November 18 (Wed), 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS

Mondays and Fridays, 8:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

LIVeStream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on [youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive](https://www.youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive)

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. on Facebook at [@GCFKidsLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/GCFKidsLIFE)

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays, 8:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. via Zoom

SPRING OF LIVING WATER (SLWGG) GROWTH GROUP

Thursdays, 5:00 p.m., via Google Meet/Zoom, with Elder Boni V. Abdon II

GCF SMALL GROUP TRAINING AND PRECEPT PHILIPPINES

An Inductive Bible Study on Mark 7-13

Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. via Zoom, contact Marj at 0917-779-1549

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **Metrobank** (Ortigas Sapphire Branch)
Savings Account 000661590216 Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9
- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**
Savings Account 1112-02006218 (Scan QR code below)
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
- **Robinsons Bank** (Main Office Branch)
Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
- **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)**
(Ortigas Emerald Branch)
Peso Savings Account
Account name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.
Account No.: 9823 0217 01



CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL

Please visit www.gcf.org.ph/give for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to finance@gcf.org.ph so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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