

II Samuel 6:14-15 (ESV) **14** And David danced before the LORD with all his might.

What did that look like?

Carlton **Sinatra&Kelly** **Seinfeld** **Dumber** **J Fallon** **David's Dance from the movie**

Probably looked more like the last one. Aside from what it looked like ...

What made David dance or rejoice – “with all his might” before the Lord?

A little background: Immediately before this dance – David was scared to death the Lord would kill him for his sin. And just a few weeks before this – David was angry at the Lord and himself. Horrify fear and volatile anger don't usually add up to an uncontrolled happy dance that involves all your might. What made David dance or rejoice before the Lord with all his might? *We are going to answer that question in full this morning because there is a call in here for us all.*

We are all called to rejoice or dance before the Lord.

Philippians 4:4 (ESV) **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.**

Philippians 4:4 (The Message) **Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him!**

What will move us to do this – *in every season of life? Here is our Big Truth we must believe, embrace:*

**I will dance (rejoice) before the Lord as I believe God,
the Greatest One, dances (rejoices) over me.**

There are two things we need God to help us believe: 1) That He is the Greatest One of All – Treasure above all treasures, and 2) That The Greatest One, Holy Almighty God – dances, rejoices over me. We are going to look at two dances today to see these two truths –

01. David's Dance

02. God's Dance

03. Invitation to the Dance

Our prayer, my prayer is that in these dances God will open our eyes and hearts to believe – that He is the Greatest One and even though He is the Greatest One, Holy God – He dances over you and I.

01. David's Dance

II Samuel 6:14-15 (ESV) **14** And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod.
15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.
David dances (rejoices) before the Lord with uncontrolled joy and love.

Why the dance? Why the uncontrolled joy and love?

BG- David, now the king over all of Israel. He has been king over Judah (1 tribe for 7.5 years) He is 30 years old and it has been somewhere around 15 years since he was anointed to be king of Israel. That is a long wait, a lot of chaos, a lot of death and suffering – and now he is king. After two battles with the Philistines one of David's first tasks in setting up His rule is to bring the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem – the new capital city.

Photo of Ark- *The ark contained the covenant (written agreement) of God with his people, it was a place where God revealed His will often, and it was literally the Lord's throne on this earth during this time. In the tent it was kept – no one could enter when God's presence was there – because He is that holy.*

6:1-5 – So he takes 30,000 elite soldiers to bring the ark to Jerusalem. Vs. 5 tells us they celebrated before the Lord with a band of all kinds of instruments – singing, shouting, and dancing as they brought the ark.

6:6-7 – In David's haste to get the ark back – He disobeys God's law about how it was to be transported. He put it on a cart – it was to be carried with poles. On the way back, the cart hit a bump and one of the priests – Uzza – reached out to keep it from falling and touched the ark. (This was disobedience.) The result- God struck him dead.

6:8-9 – David's reaction anger and fear. Anger – *this seems harsh. Anger – I sinned and that is why this man died. Fear – God could strike me down. Fear – I am not worthy of the Ark – will God never let it return with me.*

6:10-12 – David in fear, leaves the ark outside Jerusalem in a man's house name Obed-edom. In the 3 months there, David hears God blesses his house and decides to go retrieve the ark to be near him and the priests.

II Samuel 6:13-14 (ESV) **13** And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. Six steps into the trip – David stops to sacrifice. Why? He was still afraid. He was wondering will

God kill me? Will he not let me bring the place of His presence back to Jerusalem? Will my reign fail like Saul's? Six steps into the trip – David realizes, God is pouring out grace – not punishment. So David offers sacrifices – a symbol that someone else made him right before God. The result of this was joy and love.

Photo of David Dancing and - 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might.

Why does uncontrolled joy to God make us uneasy?

Why do we struggle rejoicing before the Lord with uncontrolled joy or any joy?

It's not that we don't know how to rejoice with uncontrolled joy.

Photos of Uncontrolled joy – returning soldiers, a child's enthusiasm, Cards winning WS across generations

Why do we struggle rejoicing before the Lord with uncontrolled joy or any joy?

02. God's Dance Keller, Timothy, "Jesus the King"

- From Eternity Past, the Triune God (God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son) has lived in a dance of joy and love. (CS Lewis) That our God exists as three but one is hard to grasp. But it is a core truth of who God is that completely affects all of who God is, who we are and why God created us. God is three persons – but one God. No more one than three – no more three than one.

Mark 1:9-11(ESV) 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." When Jesus comes out of the water, the Father envelops him and covers him with words of love: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Said before Jesus had done any work on this earth.) Meanwhile the Spirit covers him with power as it descends on Him like a dove (a reference back to creation - "God hovering over the water like a dove".) Jesus says shortly after as he begins his ministry – I am here to glory or reveal my Father as the greatest treasure.

This is what has been happening in the interior life of the Trinity from all eternity. Mark is giving us a glimpse into the very heart of reality, the meaning of life, the essence of the universe. According to the Bible, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit glorify one another – they reveal one another as the greatest as they serve, and love, and give to one another.

The Father, Spirit, and Son are each centering on the other - adoring and serving them. And because the Father, Son, and Spirit are giving glorifying love and joy to one another, God is infinitely, profoundly full of happy. This complete and satisfying joy and love what God has been enjoying for all eternity.

- God created – not to get joy and love – but to give joy and love to us.

Why would a triune God create a world? You might say, "Well, he created the world so he can have beings who give him worshipful love, and that would give him joy." But the triune God already had that—and he received love within himself in a far purer, more powerful form than we human beings can ever give him. He wasn't in need of love or joy. So why would he create us?

There's only one answer. He must have created us not to get joy but to give it.

This truth helps reveal God as the Greatest One. Glorious and deserving of all glory!

He has invited us into His glory saying: If you glorify me, if you center your entire life on me, if you find me beautiful for who I am in myself, then you will step into my joy and love, which is what you are made for. You are made not just to believe in me or to be spiritual in some general way, not just to pray and get a bit of inspiration when things are tough. You are made to center everything in your life on me and to serve me and others unconditionally – as I serve you. That's where you'll find complete joy and complete love. ***Believe: God is the Greatest One***

When we don't believe God is the Greatest One – alone deserving of our life, our purpose, our praise – we will struggle responding to him with joy because [personal]:

1) I will be more worried about what other's think because they are or I am functionally the greatest one in my life. This is often why we struggle with uncontrolled responses of joy – dancing before the Lord.

2) I will not find joy in God. What I find the greatest thing – Cardinals, my spouse, my kids, my job – will be the one to get that kind of uncontrolled joyfull response you don't have to teach. I just get the happy dance because it is the greatest thing to me that gives me some kind of joy – even if it is only temporary.

Believe – God is the Greatest who created to give you His great joy and love.

- **Believe ... the Great One, dances over you – the rebel (sinner).**

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one (warrior) who will save; he will rejoice (delight in you- because of love) over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult (dance and spin wildly) over you with loud singing.

- Our God is a champion warrior (ie. doesn't lose), who has rescued (saved) our rebel selves from sure eternal punishment and separation from God forever - hell.

* Our self-centered disobedience – that chooses me as the highest and rejects God as the greatest. *(We disobeyed – and received death and only death.)*

* God gave Jesus, our champion warrior – to be punished for us. In His life and death of selfless obedience – that chooses to give joy and love to others so they can know the greatest One – God. *(Jesus obeyed – and received death to give life.)*

* By faith in Jesus – we receive the selfless – holy life of Jesus in us – that God the Father and Spirit are completely pleased with and completely love. *Because of Christ in us ...*

- Because of Jesus - It brings our God great happiness and pleasure to delight in you.

- Because of Jesus - Our God rests His full and complete love on you. *He can't love you any more. Rest in that. (Quiet.)*

- Because of Jesus - Our God explodes in joyful dance over you. *The dance of eternity He has lived as our Triune God – He now dances over you. He cannot contain himself.*

Laura de Long story -

This is the evidence of the Bible – prodigal Father / Ps 149:4 The Lord takes pleasure in his people / Is 62:5 – I will rejoice over you my people / John 15:11 – These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you.

Because of Christ in us – God is completely pleased and completely loves us – so he dances over us and invites us to dance with him.

03. Invitation to the Dance

David danced – because he saw the grace of God given to him a hopeless sinner.

He left the ark angry and fearful. He came to the ark – God presence fearful.

What he experienced was grace! Six steps in he declares you have given me love and mercy when I deserve death. What grace! Someone else did this for me – I will rejoice in the God who saves and gives me his love and joy at His expense.

David danced – because in this grace he experienced the joy and love of God.

Will you dance? ***Will you rejoice and dance before the Lord and with the Lord?***

How?

- God - I believe (or I don't), help my unbelief that You are the Greatest One and You dance over me.
- God - help me dance (rejoice) with you in your love and pleasure as I ...

- see all the ways you provide in abundance for me – not because I am good but because you are good and care for me.

When you are believing the lie that you are unlovely and not worthy of His love:

Look around at all the things God gives us in abundance: FOOD, clothes, shelter, comforts, friends, family, - not to speak of His presence, His word, prayer, His body and more.

The cross says we are bad and deserve nothing – yet God is good and has given everything to us – from shoes to pray.

Would you trade a life of peace here for eternity in hell – suffering for you sin against God?

Would you live a life of hell on earth – to know the full love and pleasure of God for eternity?

- am forgiven by another when I should not be and I get a taste of your amazing and restoring forgiveness and love toward me because of Jesus.

When you are believing the lie that you are unlovely, not worthy of His love, realize you receive amazing forgiveness by another because they are embracing this truth of cross:

God did not pardon us (all know we are guilty especially us). Rather, He put our sin on Jesus and He has given us His perfect life as ours.

- read your word and I see the truth of my great sinfulness and even greater acceptance because of Jesus.

My sinfulness should have sent me to hell - but because you took out all your punishment for my sin on Jesus I have a greater forgiveness, acceptance, and pleasure than I ever imagine.

How do we believe we are danced over by God when our life's suffering that has been allowed from God's hand – makes us feel unloved by God?

The cross says God loves you because he gave up Jesus for your sin and the consequences that should have sent you to hell for eternity. (This is not hell now – the grossest things here are the floor of heaven compared to what hell will be – and God rescued you from this at the expense of His son.)

- am overwhelmed by this world and yet You remind me – that you think about, care about, and dance over me.

How do we believe we are danced over by God when our life's suffering that has been allowed from God's hand – makes us feel unloved by God?

The cross says God loves the brokenhearted because – Jesus became the brokenhearted so you and I could know the reality of God in his comfort, His love, His joy – which we may not know in this dark moment but we will know in time fully.

Because the Great One dances (rejoices) over me, I can dance (rejoice) with the Lord.

"... that the Holy One should experience ecstasy over the sinner is incomprehensible." O P Robertson

Dads – Uncontrolled Dad w. Soldier Son, Undignified Wedding Dad, Unashamed Dad of a Champion