

# “The Joy of Worship”

The priests and people gather for a time of worship and thanksgiving for what God had done in their city.

This is a chapter about a worship service.

“*Singing* is mentioned eight times in this chapter, *thanksgiving* six times, *rejoicing* seven times, and *musical instruments* three times.” - WW

Let’s continue to have joy in our worship services. Here are four principles for joy in worship from Nehemiah 12:

**SHOW UP AND SING OUT // PURIFICATION IS PREPARATION // REMEMBER IT’S GOD’S WORK // BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS**

## **1. SHOW UP AND SING OUT – JUST BEING HERE BRINGS JOY! (NEHEMIAH 12:1-26)**

**A. This is a continuation of the list of names to show that these people were part of the progress. They showed up!**

- i. “Never underestimate the importance of simply being physically present in the place where God wants you. You may not be asked to perform some dramatic ministry, but simply *being there* is a ministry. The men, women, and children who helped to populate the city of Jerusalem were serving God, their nation, and future generations by their step of faith” – Warren Wiersbe
- ii. We don’t want to say, “where’s \_\_\_\_\_” they aren’t here.

**B. There were worship leaders (vs.8,24,31,42,46) and appointed singers (vs.28,29,31,42,45,46,47) but the people all participated in the worship service (vs.43)**

- i. “There is a huge difference between being a great singer and being a great leader of songs of worship to God. Worship should be excellent, but it isn’t entertainment. The goal isn’t to give the people a good feeling (though that may happen), but to give glory and honor to God.” – Dguzik
- ii. ‘Concert’ - A public musical performance in which a number of singers or instrumentalists, or both, participate.
- iii. ‘Concert’ - Together; jointly: agreement of two or more individuals in a design or plan; combined action; accord or harmony

**C. Everyone can sing! “...it’s just like talking, except longer and louder, and you move your voice up and down.” - Buddy**

**2. PURIFICATION IS PREPARATION – HOLINESS LEADS TO HAPPINESS!  
(NEHEMIAH 12:30)**

**A. It's a false dichotomy to choose holiness or happiness. They are one and the same.**

- i. "The people that are happy, truly happy, are those that are holy, truly holy... goodness and holiness are not only the way to happiness but happiness *itself*." – Matthew Henry
- ii. THE FIRST PSALM! Psalm 1:1–2 <sup>1</sup> *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.*
- iii. Psalm 16:11 <sup>11</sup> *You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**B. The misunderstanding of holiness has come because of pharisaical legalistic definitions**

- i. Matthew 23:23–26 <sup>23</sup> *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. <sup>24</sup> Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! <sup>25</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

**3. REMEMBER IT'S GOD'S WORK – HE IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN MAKE US REJOICE! (NEHEMIAH 12:27-43)**

**A. It's God's Work (See vs.43). Our response is thankfulness and progress.**

- i. Nehemiah 2:8 <sup>8</sup> *...And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.*
- ii. Philippians 2:13 <sup>13</sup> *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*
- iii. Ephesians 2:10 <sup>10</sup> *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*
- iv. Joshua 1:3 <sup>3</sup> *Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.*

**B. It's God's work. Our response is excellence, organization, and enthusiasm.**

- i. Great singers and musicians, planning and preparation, and sense of excitement.

- ii. *Psalm 33:3<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*
- iii. *Ezra 7:6<sup>6</sup> this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.*

**4. BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS – EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF GENEROSITY (NEHEMIAH 12:44-47)**

**A. The people believed in the ministry and the ministers and so they joyfully contributed to the needs.**

- i. *Nehemiah 12:44 (NLT) ...For all the people of Judah took joy in the priests and Levites and their work.*

**B. The world says the more you get the happier you are, but God says the more you give the happier you are.**

- i. *2 Corinthians 8:2–4<sup>2</sup> that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. <sup>3</sup> For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, <sup>4</sup> imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*
- ii. *Acts 20:35<sup>35</sup> I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'* ”

*Hebrews 13:15<sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*