



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Worship With Gladness!

Sunday 28th September 2025

Psalm 46:4

1

As we draw this whole Building Our Community series to a close today, we finish on how to worship together with gladness. In **Psalm 122:1**, David writes,

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

2

Again, **Psalm 118:24** says,

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

3

And in **1 Chronicles 16:31** we read,

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

4

Being glad is in the DNA of the Christian, it is literally in your blood. Because that's where we are going, to the home of gladness which flows from the eternal throne. So let's get into **Psalm 46:4**,

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

There is just one river that makes glad the city of God. When this was written, the city of God was Jerusalem, where the temple was built which God inhabited. That was his presence among His people.

5

But when Jesus arrived this all changed. What was simple a foreshadow of things to come became a reality. It started in **Matthew 1:22-23**,

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)

6

When Jesus came to be one of us, God moved from being in His temple, to being with His people in a moving a dynamic way like never before. Then God moves from being WITH to being IN – **1 Corinthians 3:16**,

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

7 Now, back to this river which is again spoken of in **Revelation 22:1**,

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

As you can see this river carries the water of life, that feeds the trees, and the leaves of these trees are for the healing of the nations.

8 So how does all this translate into gladness for the Christian? As we saw, God previously took up His dwelling **AMONG His people** via the temple in Jerusalem, then Jesus arrived to be God **WITH US**. Then when the Spirit came, God entered into all who believe and His Spirit makes His temple **IN US**.

9 Which is how we then make sense of **John 7:38-39**,

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, [...]

The Spirit flows out of us in many directions (hence the plural, rivers). The personality, power, and fruit of the Spirit flows out from us. There is a small glimpse into how this would look for the disciples when they were still in training with Jesus. **Luke 10:17**,

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

11 Notice the joy that accompanied the work of God through them. Have you got **THIS** joy? Then Jesus ensures this does not distort the right way of

12 experiencing this power in **verse 20**,

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus says, rejoice, or, be glad, because your names are written in heaven not because spirits obey you. In other words do not worship the power, but worship power source – God Himself. Be glad that God is working through you towards and into the lives of other people.

So how does this power move towards and into the lives of those around us? Let us return to **Psalms 46:4** to find out,

13 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

14

From the river flows streams. Now streams normally flow into rivers, but what the Psalmist is speaking of are **irrigation channels, carved out from the river's edge towards the dry and barren places where the water is needed.**

As the psalmist wrote, he reminded God's people that God's goodness from one place into the lives of all who come to the living waters.

15

Our connectedness to this river is everything we need for life and living. As **Psalm 1:3** says,

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

16

So let us draw everything we can from these waters and these words from God today,

- There is only one river that will make you glad – are you drinking from these, or other waters?
- Are you hoping in other rivers (false gods and rivers of make-believe promises)?
- Are you planted in the word?

17

Taking up the words of Jesus from John 7:38,

- Are these same waters flowing out of you? (John 7:38)
- Have you become like the dead sea – waters flowing in but nothing flowing out?
- Have you quenched the Spirit? (1 Thessalonians 5:19)
- Are you rejoicing always? (Philippians 4:4)

18

Or have you never come to these living waters? **Revelation 21:6** brings the invitation from Jesus himself,

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Are you thirsty? What are you drinking in? Will you come to Him today?