



Sharing God's Abundance in Love!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 1—Sunday, January 7, 2018 Prayer Focus—All Worship Teams Abundant Gratitude

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

Psalms 118:24 ESV

Lord, thank You for today. May I embrace it as your gift, celebrate your faithfulness, and live this day fully for you.

So often we focus on the disappointments of yesterday or the uncertainties of tomorrow and miss God's matchless gift to us: Today. God made today. Let's celebrate it and make the most of every opportunity to serve others in his name. The unnamed psalmist of Psalm 118 (5-16) tells of God's rescue in response to his cry for help.

Sometimes when I wake up, I don't smile at the new day. I don't realize the potential it holds, the people I will meet, or the experiences God has for me. I take God's gifts for granted and grumble about the traffic and work. And yet, the most afflicted Christians spoke of how "joyful," they were—Christians who were jailed, beaten, and killed because of their beliefs.

Usually my days are the same; between work, studies, family, and friends, I pretty much know the outcome of each day. I look forward to some things, and others I may dread, but I have discovered that what the verse means to me, in this season of my life, is that WHATEVER today holds it is a gift from God!

The Scriptures encourage us to rejoice more than 230 times from cover to cover. We certainly have much to be joyful for, even in our trials:

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4, ESV)

So what is the day we rejoice and be glad in besides each day that he gives us a heartbeat and breath in our lungs? —The day that Jesus Christ became the sacrifice for our sins and became the cornerstone for us!

Those who know me know that I love to sing and worship in our small groups. The songs bring peace and take away distractions. The words are prayers and the noise that comes from my hands and mouth is appreciated by our Father.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods. 1 Chronicles 16:23-31 ESV

Lord, we love to sing of your glory and your majesty! We love to worship you and sing praises to our savior, Jesus Christ. As we meet each day to fellowship and study, give our praise teams the wisdom, the talent, and the Holy Spirit to discern the songs that best give us the words and music to bring you into our hearts, minds, and souls. In your great name we pray, Amen!

Frank Hertkorn

