“REAP IN JOY”

A few weeks ago the preacher used Psalm 126 as a lesson text for a Sunday morning sermon.

In this Psalm the psalmist is dealing with the return of a segment of Israel to Jerusalem and their home after a captivity of seventy years in Babylon. Beginning in verse 3 he says, “Jehovah hath done great things for us, Whereof we are glad… As the streams in the South. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” (Psalm 126:3-5 Emphasis mine)

Spoken as someone who knew something about life. There are many circumstances in life that such a thing plays out. How could something that makes us cry turn our hearts to joy?

A child is deathly ill and perhaps on life support, and maybe in a coma for a long time. The doctors give little hope that the child will recover. The family is devastated, extremely concerned and praying for the child to regain health. Then one day, after such a long time, his breathing is better, his heart becomes stronger and there is hope that he will recover. What joy is brought to the hearts of those who love him?

These people had just come home from a long captivity. Who would feel like singing under those circumstances? Their captors, for their own amusement, wanted the Israelites to sing their songs they would normally use for worship. Who would not be insulted under such circumstances? After the suffering they went through for all those years, they are shouting with joy, “Jehovah hath done great things for us.”

Since the Lord has told us that “And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good…” (Romans 8:28) we know that when we go through the fire, there is the possibility of being able to
celebrate with joy.

In other words, when the going gets rough, “hang in there.”

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