

ISSUE **RHEMA**

THE VOICE OF THE FIVE MINISTRIES



**Happiness**  
and **Joy**

5 OF SEPTEMBER YEAR OF RECOVERY GUATEMALA 2021 PUBLISHED 138





Apostle Dr. Sergio Enríquez

## EDITORIAL

**LEB Philippians 2:2** “complete my joy, so that you are in agreement, having the same love, united in spirit, having one purpose.”

Within the multitude of teachings that this apostolic prayer leaves behind, it is the one that refers to joy, since by praying that it be made perfect, it is teaching us that there must be an evolution in it; as well as that which exists in love (**1 John 2:5**), praise (**Matthew 21:16**), unity (**John 17:23**), holiness (**2 Corinthians 7:1**), obedience (**2 Corinthians 10:6**), power of God (**2 Corinthians 12:9**), faith (**James 2:22**), bond, will (**Romans 12:2**) that is, perfect joy comes to integrate what we call “perfect perfection.” Therefore, in this issue of Rhema magazine, we will try to develop, based on all the Hebrew words that can be translated as joy, the fullness or totality of it, the fullness of happiness.

There is no doubt that in these last months in which there has been so much negative, the Church of the Lord will receive the joy ordered by our Father in **Isaiah 61** to strengthen and be prepared for the soon encounter with the God of Glory, so we can say once again: May this magazine bring proper edification of those who are reached by it.

*Sergio Guillermo Enríquez Oliva*



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## Apostolic Advice

*We long to be counted worthy of escaping from the things that are coming to the world.*



# INDEX

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**Bawlag: Rejoice, take strengtn**

*Psalm 39:13*

**4**

**Geel: To be happy or to rejoice**

*Psalm 2:11*

**6**

**Toob: Joy or rejoicing**

*Deuteronomy 28:47*

**8**

**Mawsoce: Joy or happiness**

*Psalm 48:2*

**10**

**Alaz: Cheerful or rejoice**

*Habakkuk 3:18*

**12**

**Alez: The one having fun**

*Isaiah 5:14*

**14**

**Alats: To be happy or to rejoice**

*1 Samuel 2:1*

**16**

**Tsawhal: Cry out, give,  
shouts of joy**

*Isaiah 12:6*

**18**

**Tsaachaq: Laugh, rejoice**

*Genesis 21:6*

**20**

**Rúa: Burst into praise**

*Zephaniah 3:14*

**22**

**Ranan: Praise or exalt**

*Deuteronomy 32:43*

**24**

**Siys: Be happy or rejoice in  
great way**

*Isaiah 61:10*

**26**

**Sawchag:  
Dance, play an instrument**

*Jeremiah 30:19*

**28**

**Samach: Be happy or rejoice**

*Psalm 118:24*

**30**

**Sameach: Happy or joyful**

*Proverbs 15:13*

**32**

**Simkhaw: Gladness or joy**

*Deuteronomy 28:47*

**34**

**Shawaw: Cheer up,  
caress, or be fondled**

*Psalms 94:19*

**36**

**Shawah: Cheer up,  
caress, or be fondled**

*Psalms 119:70*

**38**

**Shahshooah: Joy or delight**

*Psalms 119:24*

**40**

# BAWLAG: REJOICE, TAKE STRENGTH

By Abraham de la Cruz

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

1 Chronicles 15:25      Acts 2:26  
 Job 6, 10:20  
 Luke 10:21, 15:9

The natural man has discovered that happiness in people produces favorable conditions for the development of daily life, in such a way it is believed that due to happy emotional states, people are more creative, there is greater freedom to interact with others, it is more helpful and increases the defenses of your body, to be healthier. God, who made man in his image and likeness, shows

us by his Word that one of the favorable emotional conditions for his children is happiness, joy, and rejoice. If there is something that can produce this state is to have communion and intimacy with the



Lord since there is nothing more significant than knowing his love, beauty, goodness, mercy, power, etc. Then, by sharing these experiences with our beloved, we will rejoice in Him as described in **Song of Solomon 1:4**. Joy is even a feeling that must be manifested in the activities we carry out, especially when we do them for the Lord. For example: serving the Lord (**Deuteronomy 28:47**), giving (**2 Corinthians 9:7**), praising the Lord (**1 Chronicles 15:16**), etc. This is why the Bible describes the joy of the Lord as our strength (**Nehemiah 8:10**).

Something that God shows in his Word is that we should rejoice in our entrances and exits (**Deuteronomy 33:18**), in prosperity (**Ecclesiastes 11:9**), because of the great things that He has done, because of his soon coming (**Zechariah 2:10**). Likewise, He has left us many things for which we should rejoice, yet there are dealings on his part that can interrupt the joy in a heart, such as in the case of Job. This biblical character lost all material things he owned, in addition to the death of his sons and daughters; despite all this, his wife did not understand God's purpose amid the test and considered that the integrity of her husband had no value, and asked him to curse God and die. In addition to this, his supposed friends questioned and accused him because they considered that his condition was due to what he had sown. Even if he sought and implored the Lord, he was not going to be listened to and cared for, because according to his friends, Job was not someone fair. This struck Job's heart to the degree that he wanted God to crush him. Job's condition and the bad advice of his friends clouded his heart, in such a way that there was no possibility of a hint of joy manifesting in him, he lost all hope and wanted to die, that's why he said: *"If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face, and be of good cheer,'"* (**Job 9:27**). The Hebrew word that was translated as joy in the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is H1082 Bawlag, which means: to break, that is to give up the pain. Also, shine with joy, rejoice (Chávez Dictionary). So why did Job declare that there could be no shining of joy on his face? Why did he say that he could not get out of his suffering? All for considering himself an impious whom God would not absolve him of his guilt. Brothers and sisters, one of the things that can cloud the heart of a child of God is to let the accusation take effect, to the point of feeling guilty of allegations that do not come from God, who does not accuse us, but who accuses us during the day and at night is the devil.



Another thing that can cloud the joy of God in our hearts is losing the purpose of living, and this also happened to Job: *“Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little”* (**Job 10:20**). The word translated as comfort is Bawlag, so I can say that Job requested God to depart from him to have some joy before leaving this Earth (some versions of the Bible describe this: AMPC, ASV, GNV, etc.) Being tired of living caused Job to speak with the bitterness of soul so that during trial and affliction, he could not find God’s purpose. He came to consider that the Lord was contending against him and believed that He could condemn him. Asking that God turn away from him in the trial he was going through was not going to allow him to find a moment of joy, but God, who is patient and merciful, although He listened to his request, did not grant his wish but showed him His goodness because it guides us to repentance. Later, Job repents and recognizes that for God, there is nothing impossible; the Lord accepts him and restores his well-being in such a way that I can say that God restored the joy in his heart.

This joy Bawlag also appears in **Psalm 39:13** when David feels that the eyes of God are on him, to the

degree that the Lord’s gaze on him is with anger (**CSB**), a look with anger (**MEV**), with his face irate (**NET**), and that is why the **NRSV** version translates: Turn your gaze away from me. Reading the context of this psalm, we appreciate that David was in great distress because he felt that the Lord had sent a plague on him and that because of the hardness of His hand, he was perishing. All this because he thought that he had not been free from his transgressions, and one of them was speaking against the wicked who rose against David and against the sinner who presented himself against him. Another thing that can quench the joy in a heart is when it is considered that God is angry against one for the transgressions committed. David himself responds to this condition in **Psalm 51** because when he knows God’s mercy and compassion when he repents, he understands that He will cleanse him from his sin and the result of this ministry is joy and gladness (**Psalm 51:8**).

God lets us see in his Word that by opening our hearts to his son Jesus Christ, one of the beautiful ministrations that will be manifested is joy, since when a sinner repents, there is joy in heaven and here on Earth. It is celebrated with joy (**Luke 15:24**). There is even joy for a whole family that receives Christ into

their heart (**Acts 16:34**) and knowing that our names are inscribed in heaven (**Luke 10:20**). There can even be joy even if the men of the world insult us and reject us for the sake of Christ because we are sure that our reward is great in heaven (**Matthew 5:12**). Thus, beloved, the presence of God, the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in our lives produces happiness and joy in the heart, in such a way that as well as the meaning of the Hebrew word Bawlag, God wants our face to shine because of the joy in our heart.

# GEEL: TO BE HAPPY OR TO REJOICE

By Willy González

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalm 32:11, 35:9      Joel 2:21  
 Psalms 97:1  
 Song of Solomon 1:4

*“Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (Psalm 2:11).* We are studying the different words that can be translated from Hebrew to rejoice and thus understand many ways of expressing joy and its causes. The word Geel is translated as rejoice, and its meaning is: to turn around, under the influence of any violent emotion (usually it is translated as joy or rejoicing). In **Psalm 2:11**, we see two

forms of expression of worship that lead us to think of a balance. When the words fear and trembling are used, one more calm or reverent form of worship and then a more spontaneous one that involves



bodily expression. It may be that we do not have the freedom to express ourselves, either because of shyness or culture. However, let us remember the lame man who ran and jumped when he was healed to express his joy, and a David who went around without stopping rejoicing in the Lord; let's see how to experience it.

### The joy of salvation

*“But I trust in your mercy. Grant my heart joy in your salvation, I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt bountifully with me!” (Psalm 13:6 NABRE).* Here the word joy is Geel, an expression without limits of joy caused by salvation, and it is that the Bible refers to it as such great salvation. It is so because the son of God, when coming to Earth, takes a body and suffers on the cross, goes down to the lake of fire, and conquers death; it was the price paid so that we are now saved and have eternal life. It is something to enjoy without limits. For what reason the Lord told the disciples to rejoice because their names were written in the book of life; it is unprecedented to be possessors of the gift of salvation. *“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing” (Exodus 15:20).* An expression of joy from a person of advanced age was due to the salvation that they had just experienced, seeing how their enemies were destroyed by the sea that God had opened for them to pass and leave Egypt. The Lord saved them from a large army and allowed them to start the road to the promised land. Currently, we experience the same when we come out of the waters of baptism since, at that moment, our closest enemies die, and we begin our way to the life in abundance that God has destined for us; therefore, we must rejoice in this great salvation. Brothers and sisters, the psalmist cried out to God to be restored to the joy of salvation when he had failed his Lord; he did not want to stop feeling and living such rejoicing.

### Rejoice in mercy

*“I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction; you have known the distress of my soul” (Psalm 31:7).* The word Geel is also used in this verse in the form of joy that is



made visible through bodily expressions. So, it is also knowing the mercy of God towards each one, knowing that we fail, that we are unworthy, and that the mercy of the heavenly Father is so great that it gives an opportunity to a son who had left home, or to the one who was persecuting the Church to make him an apostle. God's mercy is incomprehensible and fills us with joy, but even more so when we know that it is new day after day.

### Rejoice for His judgments

*“Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments!” (Psalm 48:11).* This would seem contradictory since it is shown that the cause of rejoicing is the judgments of God, and it's that everything that can happen on Earth and that for everyone is a catastrophe, for us who have believed in his Name is a sign of the return of the author and finisher of faith, our beloved Lord. For this reason, He told us that when these things began to happen, we had to stand up, that is, lookup since our redemption would be near, and today it is even more so than when we first believed.

### Advice gives joy

*“Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure” (Psalm 16:9 ESV).* Here we see several interesting things; among them is that one of the consequences of this type of joy is to have peace that leads us to a rest that affects our body. For example, stress causes diseases and even more weakens the immune system; So, a side effect of joy is being able to enter rest, but when we analyze the context of this passage we see that what the psalmist has done is to receive God's advice and teaching. We obtain this through their delegated ministers by asking them for advice in some difficult situations. Thus, we obtain victories; in addition, when we are taught based on the Word of God and not on human philosophies, we are firm in Him for which we will rejoice.

### Living in God's present causes rejoicing

*“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).* Another cause for joy is understanding that God has made a special day for us, and that day is today. It is not a specific day of the week to keep it religiously, but it is a continuous present, therefore beloved, to enter the rest of God; we must not wait a day, but do it today. Even the

promises that have been made in the past can be received in the present, that is why the Lord, after reading the book of Isaiah, ends by saying that the prophecy, that word, was fulfilled at that time; that can continue to happen today.

God's time is a present of blessing; that is why we cannot say that past times were better. And even if the fig tree does not flower, we will still rejoice in the Lord who has created a special day for us today!

# TOOB: JOY OR REJOICING

By Piedad de González

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Isaiah 65:14	Psalms 65:4 NLT
Psalms 100:2	Proverbs 2:7
Zechariah 9:17	Psalms 25:12-13

*“because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things” (Deuteronomy 28:47).* Toob is another of the Hebrew words that will help us understand the magnitude of what it means to be joyful in the heart; this word means joy or rejoicing, the good, the best to an excellent degree.

### Service and joy

**Deuteronomy 28:47** tells us about an ingredient so that the service we offer to God is pleasant: doing it



with a joyful heart. It is an attitude that we must have since the service can be sometimes very intense and not understood by people who do not know the Lord. It is very important to serve with joy because doing it oppositely brings unfortunate consequences for those who serve without joy. Another of the blessings of serving the Lord with joy is that it will allow us to enter and move us to another dimension, as we see in the example of the parable of the talents. Here, the servant who did not serve with joy had resentment against his Lord, he did not think it was worth the effort, and although he was from his master's trusted group, this attitude led him to bury his talent and not bear fruit. Nevertheless, those who had a different mindset and made an effort when their master returned were able to bear the fruits of that work with joy. The reward for their faithfulness was that they were put above so much more. That is why brothers and sisters, by serving with joy, this is multiplied, and we can live in a fortress called the joy of the Lord. Even the result of serving with this joy can be translated into doing a good job, and by doing so, the perspective of the Lord's coming changes; That is why that servant who was left in charge of the house of his master had to administer everything and give food on time to the other workers, and he did so. It is said of him, blessed, happy the servant who is serving in that way when his master returns, but the opposite happens with those who do not serve with joy and treat the other workers in the house badly; for this servant the coming of the Lord will be like a thief in the night. We can also mention that God loves a cheerful giver, and it is that when we serve, we are giving of our strength and life. This makes us live in a different dimension, as when the apostles were scourged for serving the Lord through the preaching of the Word. They gave themselves that privilege by risking their lives, and when they were released from prison after being violently injured, they came out rejoicing that they were held worthy to suffer for the gospel.

### Goodness and joy

*“When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness” (Proverbs 11:10).* Toob can also be translated as good, prosperity, sound, which suggests that when God blesses us in this way, He provides us with a source of joy. In **Psalms 37:25**, we see the goodness of the righteous, and it is that they will never be abandoned, nor will their seed have extreme



poverty. Knowing that you have this promise should be a source of joy because although there are economic problems worldwide, with financial losses of businesses or jobs, in the midst of all this, God himself constitutes a shield around the righteous (**Psalm 5:12**), the certainty of that care fills us with joy. Now we understand why the Lord asks that the righteous be told that it will be all right for them.

### The goodness of the Lord and joy

*“They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more”* (**Jeremiah 31:12**). In this passage, the word Toob is translated as goodness. This is such a source of joy that it elicits shouts of joy, but what does the goodness of God imply? We see that five elements are the blessings represented in the grain, the wine, the oil, the young sheep, and the cows. These five things have at least two meanings: one of them is the grace of God that we can explain as unmerited favor since by grace we are saved and

not by complying with the law; It is also the power that makes us defeat sin, knowing this fills us with joy. Another meaning is the five ministries made up of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers who were left and established by the Lord. Finally, we are ministered and presented as a pure and blameless bride before the Lord (**Ephesians 4:11**). This is a cause of joy that we could express even with shouts of joy. Brethren, being covered is a source of rejoicing.

### Joy and prosperity

*“The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!”* (**Psalm 128:5**). In this text, Toob is translated as prosperity, a source of joy, but we must understand that God’s prosperity is not limited to material blessings only; in this case, it is a place where we can confidently dwell, where our soul can obtain even the benefit of health, a place where God leads the lonely or the captives who were rescued; also, a place for those who are humble. That is why on the day of prosperity we can enjoy ourselves and learn so that when adversity comes we consider what happens to us, that is, prosperity brings maturity to

our soul, we stop being selfish, our soul becomes generous and this attracts even more prosperity by becoming a virtuous circle of blessings. God longs to take us to an extraordinary level of joy and to grow in such a way that our joy is complete so that when the Beloved takes us into his bedroom, we can say, let us rejoice and be glad in Him!

# MAWSOCE: JOY OR HAPPINESS

By Hilmar Ochoa

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Lamentations 2:15	Isaiah 65:18
Jeremiah 49:25	Luke 2:10
Isaiah 66:10	Song of Solomon 4:12



*“Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King” (Psalm 48:1-2 ESV).* For the development of this article, I wish to pick out a statement that the psalmist makes regarding Jerusalem, which he describes as the holy mountain of God, the city of our God, and the city of the great King, saying: the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion. Therefore, understanding that the source of all blessings and true

joy is God, we see in the Scripture that he makes different entities the source of life, blessing, and joy, as he did with Mount Zion. That is to say that God first fills with his joy and happiness, and then that which He filled with him also becomes a source to give with grace what they received with grace.

Mount Zion represents the Church of Christ. Spiritually, the city of the great King and God’s holy mountain is the Church, whom he has now constituted as the joy of the whole Earth. We know that joy comes from God, but it manifests within the Church as a source of that everlasting joy for his part on Earth. In other words, the Church of Christ on Earth is an embassy of heaven, it is a dimensional door that attracts the sources from above, and within them, we find the joy of the Lord *“...My whole source of joy is in you” (Psalms 87:7 CSB)*. For this reason, the Beloved says to his beloved: *“a garden fountain, a well of living water, and flowing streams from Lebanon” (Song of Solomon 4:15 ESV)*.

Just as the Bible teaches us that the Church is the light of the world and the salt of the Earth, the Lord also tells his beloved Church that it is a source of gardens (precisely a source of joy). And just as the light that the Church radiates is not her own, since it reflects the light of Christ, so the Church does not minister of her own joy; but a minister of the joy of the Lord who through His Spirit was poured out on her. In other words, the Church’s mission is to fill the whole Earth with joy. **Psalm 128:3** says that the wife is a fruitful vine to become a producer of wine (joy). For that reason, the gospel means good news of great joy, in such a way that wherever the news of the gospel reaches, every place where it is preached is filled with joy and rejoicing: *“And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So, there was much joy in that city” (Acts 8:6-8 ESV)*. *“So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through*



both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers” (**Acts 15:3 ESV**). The Hebrew word that was translated joy in **Psalm 48:2** that we have discussed can be translated delight, gladness, joy, and rejoicing; but mainly it refers to the cause and object of the pleasure; letting it be seen that this kind of joy leads to delight and this in turn to other blessings. This is related to the following text that links the Lord as a source of joy and consequently his delight: “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (**Psalm 16:11 ESV**). “You have let me experience the joys of life and the exquisite pleasures of your own eternal presence” (**Psalms 16:11 TLB**). Then the joy Mawsoce teaches us to delight ourselves first in the Lord and thus enjoy all that we receive from Him and as a result we will produce delight in the around us. In other words, we are blessed to bless. Therefore, brothers and sisters, whoever is filled with the joy of the

Lord, will make others happy.

Let’s now look at some verses where this kind of joy appears: “...they shall call you the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one passing through, I will make you majestic forever, a joy from age to age” (**Isaiah 60:14-15 ESV**). “...Though once despised and hated and rebuffed by all, you will be beautiful forever, a joy for all the generations of the world, for I will make you so” (**Isaiah 60:14-15 TLB**). Again, the Lord speaking to the people about Him and making them see that He will become a source of joy from generation to generation, which means that this joy is transferred to future generations. It is interesting that in this text the Lord is not telling his people that He will give them joy (although it is implicit); He is announcing to them that He will provide them with happiness and a source of joy. “Never again shall you be called “The God-forsaken Land” or the “Land That God Forgot.” Your new name will be “The Land of God’s Delight” and “The Bride,” for the Lord delights

in you and will claim you as his own. Your children will care for you, O Jerusalem, with joy like that of a young man who marries a virgin; and God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom with his bride” (**Isaiah 62:4-5 ESV**). These verses let us see that the Lord’s wife is not only the joy of the whole earth, a source of delight for those around her, but the Lord is declaring that Zion is full of delights to please Him, such that He rejoices in his Beloved as a husband delights in his wife. That is why the beloved exclaims: “I am my beloved’s and I am the one he desires” (**Song of Solomon 7:10 TLB**). “I belong to you, my love. And you long for me” (**Song of Solomon 7:10 NIRV**).

In conclusion, Mawsoce joy is a virtuous circle of rejoicing and delight in which first God is our joy; He makes us happy and fills us with delights, but then we become the delight of his eyes, and we cause him joy and happiness. And as a side effect, we spread joy around us and fill the whole Earth with joy from him!

# ALAZ: CHEERFUL OR REJOICE

By Ramiro Sagastume

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalms 100:1-2

Proverbs 23:15-16

Psalms 43:4

Proverbs 15:13, 21:15

One of the things that has changed in our lives in all of us who have received Christ is that we now have joy and gladness in our hearts. In the Bible, in both Hebrew and Greek, many words mean happiness and joy; and if the Bible mentions them separately in the same verse, it is because there is a difference, and God wants to minister

to us with each of the forms of happiness and joy. One of those is the Hebrew word H5937 Alaz which means: jump for joy, exult, rejoice, content, glory. It appears about 16 times in different verses.



We will use the base text: *“yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation”* (**Habakkuk 3:18 ESV**). Here we see that the joy now in us should not depend on things external or material, the verse begins with an absolute with everything; It means that the outward circumstance that surrounds us will not matter; we will have a joy that will come from a spiritual source, that is, from the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The verse that precedes the text that speaks to us of joy Alaz says: *“Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls”* (**Habakkuk 3:17 ESV**). With our natural mind or human thought, we cannot understand that even if we are experiencing a material misfortune or situations against us, for example, losing a harvest, not having bread on the table, and everything that has been obtained is lost, and that as a result, there exists in us a joy Alaz that is jumping for joy; it cannot be understood. I do not know if you, dear reader, would do something similar, jump for joy amid destruction that can span a long time, notice that it is not that you are enjoying misfortune, but that in the midst of the negativity and misfortune, there is room in your heart for this kind of joy Alaz that comes from God.

When in our hearts there is gratitude for what God has done and does in our lives, one way to express our joy is with this Alaz form; We see in the following verse a gratitude that the psalmist has: *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him”* (**Psalms 28:7 ESV**). We see here that David is going through something negative in his life, but the faith that he had made him wait for the Lord’s answer. He indeed had a battle, but he knows that God is his strength and shield, but he says something interesting: he waited for the Lord and was helped. As a consequence, Alaz brought him joy and that led to a song to God. He means that Alaz joy inspires us to sing to the Lord, perhaps in the middle of a trial or in the middle of something not in



our favor, but dear brothers and sisters, God gives us the victory.

Another text where Alaz appears is in: *“Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult before him!” (Psalm 68:4 ESV)*. We want to call your attention that once again in times of adversity, Alaz is the joy that God sends into our lives; in the previous text it says that God is the one who rides in the deserts. *“So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the desert” (Ezekiel 20:10 CEB)*. It may be that at this moment you are going through a desert or a test; but be sure that there in that desert the Lord is riding to bless you and defeat the enemies that you cannot defeat. Unfortunately, it is necessary May the human heart be taken to the desert because there we hear the Lord. *“That is why I’m going to win her back. I will lead her into the desert. I will speak tenderly to her” (Hosea 2:14 GW)*. In the desert we learn to love the

Lord, and although many times when we come out of this or the trial, we forget our God: *“Go and cry out to Jerusalem’s ears, saying: “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the Lord, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown” (Jeremiah 2:2 ESV)*. The people of Israel passed through many deserts, and in each of them, they saw the glorious manifestation of Jehovah. There they were sustained for 40 years, and during that time, their clothes did not wear out; during that time, their footwear did not deteriorate. He gave them water; He gave them a heavenly bread that nourished them. Therefore, if you are going through a desert, have confidence in the Lord. In the middle of the desert, it will bring you an inexplicable joy, a joy Alaz that will bring rejoicing and that will become a refreshment for your soul and your heart, and it will not be possible to explain in words, you will only give thanks to the Lord.

Another meaning of the word Alaz is to jump for joy;

A clear example of this type of joy is seen in King David when he brought the ark of the covenant to his house: *“As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart” (2 Samuel 6:16 ESV)*. Let’s imagine how this beautiful event would be for David who knew that he was making himself vile before Jehovah, that is why, when we propose in our hearts perhaps going through moments of anguish, hearing the praise and feeling the peace of the Holy Spirit in us and this joy Alaz invades us, we begin to jump for joy knowing all that God has accomplished in our lives. Although there may be people who despise us in the manner of Michal, God gives us his joy. *“And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord” (2 Samuel 6:17 ESV)*. Thus, we see how Alaz joy leads us to offer sacrifices and offerings to the Lord.

# ALEZ: THE ONE HAVING FUN

By Ana Julia de Sagastume / Carol de Acevedo

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalms 100:1-2

Isaiah 5:11-13

Isaiah 29:19

Proverbs 17:22

3 John 1:4

Romans 15:13

*“Therefore, Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her” (Isaiah 5:14 ESV).* This verse lets us see in other versions that his rejoicing is getting drunk, but as we have learned, some of us, although at some point in

our lives when we did not know the Lord, we lived on these things, now we have been changed from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, and that is why we should not practice these things,



but on the contrary, we are made new. According to the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the word H5938 Alez means: the one who rejoices or the one who amuses, but also the exultant word that means: joy or satisfaction. The Dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy has the following meaning: feeling, a person who shows joy or another feeling with great excitement. Its synonyms are: jubilant, euphoric, exhilarated. Brothers and sisters, we live in a humanistic society, where the only thing you want is to entertain people with activities that give them some joy, which in the end are momentary. The consumerism that our society experiences wants to deceive us by selling happiness in what we use, drink or eat, recommending that to be happy, we must attend any show or go to movie theaters, for example. All this is such a poor offer to distract the mind at certain times. The base verse of this topic refers to how temporary it is to live life pretending to be happy in the middle of parties and drunkenness, but what about the next day? Surely, they return to their daily life with a sad heart and estranged from our God.

Sin separates us from God; true joy can only come from our reconciliation with Him. David acknowledges his sin and pleads for his joy to be restored, *“Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities” (Psalm 51:8-9 ESV).* Then we can experience a joy that we could not explain, because it comes from within us. The difference with us, who by mercy have reached salvation, is that the Holy Spirit dwells in us and that is why we do not need a specific event to be happy, because it is He who has molded us from our spirit and has changed our sadness into joy. Brothers and sisters, some people think that being happy is never suffering from different situations in life, and there are those who accuse us saying that we try to deny adverse circumstances, but it is not like that, it is the way how through the Holy Spirit who lives in us, we face problems differently, and we maintain a continuous happiness within us that does not change.



The joy of the Lord is a permanent and not temporary joy: *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit”* (**Ephesians 5:18 ESV**). The manifestations of the Holy Spirit can do things to us that seem drunk; we can laugh out loud or stagger when walking; The people mistook the disciples in the upper room for drunkenness: *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (**Acts 2:4 ESV**). The priest Eli mistook Hannah as a drunken woman: *“And Hannah prayed and said, My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation”* (**1 Samuel 2:1 ESV**). In the context, another version says: *“And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee”* (**1 Samuel 1:14 KJV**). So, the priest mistakes Hannah for a drunk, and in reality, she was not, but she poured out her heart and pleaded with God for a son. As we know, God listens to us and is merciful

to those who approach Him in prayer, that is why He grants her a son whom she calls Samuel, and she prays again, but her prayer was no longer one of lamentation, now she rejoiced in God of her strength for having granted her the desired child.

When we rejoice in the Spirit, He comes and fills us with joy and power called the Holy Spirit: *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you”* (**John 14:26 ESV**). When we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, our whole being (spirit, soul, and body) changes, and we become faithful servants according to His heart, being His reward, rejoicing with Him. *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master’”* (**Matthew 25:21 ESV**). Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ also rejoices when He goes out looking for the lost sheep, He finds them and takes them back to His fold. *“And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices*

*over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray”* (**Matthew 18:13 ESV**). Our Lord is in search of sinners, and for one who gives Him their heart, He celebrates in heaven and rejoices. So, likewise, our heart rejoices in the Lord, since being undeserving of His mercy, He goes out to look for us and finds us, cleanses and forgives our sins, and it is because of that love that He first taught us to learn to put our hope in His Holy Name which is above all names. *“For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name”* (**Psalms 33:21 ESV**). God is the one who fills us with the joy of him, so let’s get away from all kinds of activity that gives us fleeting joy. We better seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

# ALATS: TO BE HAPPY OR TO REJOICE

By Juan Luis Elías

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

1 Samuel 1, 2:1-11      Hebrews 4:16  
 1 John 4:17  
 Songs 2:4, 8:8

We have understood through the Word that our love must be constantly perfected (1 John 4:18), and this is through a process which we can see in the book of the Song of Solomon, where the beloved (figure of the Church) grows in love. Thus, we see how this woman refers to her brothers as my mother's children at

the beginning of the story, and as in the last chapter, she says: we have a sister who has a problem and to solve it, she asks: what shall we do? From this, we can understand that she solved the problems



with her siblings and grew in her love, and now she no longer calls them my mother's children, but she involves them in solving a problem as siblings. In addition to the above, through the story of this book, it is observed how she is changing and she stops talking about the things in her possession to talk about them in the plural, shared with the Beloved. For example, she says, my bed, but she ends up saying, our bed. This woman grows from the singular to the plural, from me to us, from individualism to sharing, to unity, as evidence of the improvement that her love is undergoing. Also, in this same story, we can read that specific situation lead this woman to perfect her love. In chapter 1, verse 4, she says, "Draw me after you; let us run." The need for an approach to the Beloved leads her to affirm that after this closeness occurs, she will lead those she loves to run after the Beloved; thus, she also refers that the King put her in his bedroom (singular) and from there speak in the plural, we will be happy and rejoice. Again, her personal experience with the King makes her grow, and she now shares the joy and happiness with others.

We who have had an encounter and intimacy with the Beloved, in many ways He has taken us to his bedrooms, among them, the wine chamber in the holy supper and the prayer chamber as two examples. We then have the necessary elements to be able to give and share the joy and happiness that are achieved in these places with those around us, and thus be able to pass from the individualism of the self to the we, to the unity, and thus be perfected in love. Now, it is necessary to know the happiness and joy described in the Bible to understand what it is that this happiness and joy should produce and that it be pleasing in the eyes of the Lord so that we can share it with others. Among the different words that describe joy we find the Hebrew word H5970 Alats in the Strong's Dictionary nomenclature and that when translated into English, it means: rejoicing, jubilation, jumping for joy, and triumph. This word Alats is used in 8 verses in the old covenant, and in these, we can understand the origin of this joy.



### The joy of fulfilling vows to the Lord

In **1 Samuel 2:1**, Hannah prays, saying: my heart rejoices in the Lord. Seeing the context, this woman is referring to the joy that comes from having fulfilled the vow she made to the Lord, offering her first son for the service of God, which was a response to the need to bear fruit and thus remove an affront, a humiliation due to infertility. When we bear fruit, and from that fruit, we give the Lord the first thing, the most crucial thing in gratitude for his favorable response. This will cause rejoicing in our hearts, which we must share with those around us.

### Rejoicing in the Lord

**Psalm 5:11** in its last portion says: as those who love the name of the Lord, therefore He gives them the ability to rejoice in the Lord himself by being in his presence, so also in **Psalm 9:1-2** we see that those who tell the wonders of the Lord are given this same ability. We can understand then that loving the

Name of the Lord and telling his wonders produces in us a joy that comes from him, and we can share this joy and lead others to love the Name of the Lord and tell his wonders, turning this into a virtuous circle that would perpetuate the joy in us.

### The exhilaration of being before Him

In **Psalm 68:3**, we read that there is rejoicing that produces being in the presence of the Lord, this is reserved for the righteous, that is, being righteous takes you before the presence of the Lord and produces rejoicing, understanding that it is not because of our own righteousness but that which comes from the Lord. That is, the righteousness of Christ, who is in us, so we can say that we are righteous because the righteousness dwells in us. We can, through his blood, reach the Holy of Holies and there before our Father, the Almighty God, rejoice. Brothers and sisters, we must share this truth so that others may also reach this joy.

### The exhilaration of triumph

The word *Alats* is translated in **Proverbs 28:12** as a triumph: *“When the righteous triumph, there is great glory...”*. Here, rejoicing is homologated with the word triumph, we can then say that the triumph of justice is joy and when we proceed with justice in our actions, in our works, and in our walk, that produces a fruit of rejoicing that can be shared with others.

# TSAWHAL: CRY OUT, GIVE, SHOUTS OF JOY

By Oswaldo and Rita Gutiérrez

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalm 24:8, 113:5, 126:5 Exodus 27:20

Song of Solomon 1:1-2 Judges 5:1-7

Esther 8:14 Ezra 3:1-12

*“Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee” (Isaiah 12:6 KJV).*

We must know and understand how lovingly our Heavenly Father loves us so that we may be called his children (1 John 3:1). By understanding the love of the Lord, we will leave our own ways to continue considering his ways (Job 34:27). The Lord shows us the way we should walk; However, we must not only know Him but pray to the Lord to draw us to run after Him (Song of Solomon 1:4). When the Beloved of the Song



of Solomon begins to look for her Beloved, she makes a request: Draw me after you, since by her own strength she could not follow him, not because she did not love him, but because the cares and afflictions were quenching somehow her love (Song 8:7 KJV).

of Solomon begins to look for her Beloved, she makes a request: Draw me after you, since by her own strength she could not follow him, not because she did not love him, but because the cares and afflictions were quenching somehow her love (Song 8:7 KJV).

Brothers and sisters, we must ask the Lord to draw us, knowing that his coming is imminent and that it is prophesied that at this time evil would increase on the Earth, and consequently the afflictions would increase, causing the love of many to grow cold (Matthew 24:12 KJV). For this reason, we must understand that many Christians continue to walk in their own ways, with anguish, instead of running towards the Lord with rejoicing, this being one of the manifestations of being in love with God. As an example, it can be noted that the end-time attack causes many Christians to find no longer joy in what they do in the Lord's work.

In the Word, there are several ways to rejoice, which are a sign of being in love with the Lord, and one of them is described in the book of Isaiah chapter twelve, verse six. The term rejoice that appears in this verse is translated from the Hebrew 6670 Tsawhal or Tsaál and can be translated: cry out, shout for joy, and shine, be joyful. This form of rejoicing appears in the Bible at least eleven times. For example, when Mordecai appears before the king and leaves with rejoicing knowing that Ahasuerus had issued a decree and although he would not free them from death, he gave them the right to defend themselves, hence knowing that the Lord was in favor of them and the love with which God supported them, filled him with this rejoicing (Esther 8:11, 15 KJV). Another form of rejoicing is knowing our God's greatness and his ability to provide in an over-abundant way. Such is the case of wine that makes the heart of man glad (Psalm 104:15 KJV), a wine that gives extreme joy; as in the case of Elizabeth, when inside her womb her son John leaped for joy when he perceived that in the womb of Mary was the Son of



God (**Luke 1:41 KJV**). It also provides the oil that is a figure of the revelation since it was used in the lamps that served to illuminate. Lastly, it gives the bread that sustains the life of man, which is a figure of the Word of God as food. *“...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”* (**Matthew 4:4 KJV**).

The Tsawhal rejoicing is manifested when it is announced to the people that although they are in desolation, a remnant of the Lord will return, and they will rejoice again (**Isaiah 10:30 KJV**); Furthermore, this rejoicing is manifested when we sing and rejoice in the Lord even though we go through adverse situations since He is on our behalf in our midst (**Isaiah 12:6 KJV**). Likewise, this rejoicing is manifested when we understand that although for the inhabitants of the Earth comes devastation (because God decides to punish those who have been disobedient and do not accept his Son as a propitiation for their sins), however, all

those who come before Jehovah and acknowledge their sinful condition, He allows them to give shouts of joy (**Isaiah 24:14**), praising with joy and gladness when all the nations see the salvation of his people, *“The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad”* (**Psalms 126:3 KJV**).

When the barren woman rejoices in understanding that, although she cannot have literal children, she can conceive spiritual children by taking children for herself and raising them as Deborah did, who rose as a mother over Israel and collaborated in the victory of the people (**Judges 5:7; Isaiah 54:1**). Another characteristic of this word Tsawhal is to cry out, but the interesting thing is that one can cry out with rejoicing: *“...Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband”* (**Galatians 4:27 KJV**). One cries out with joy when God’s promise to receive what is longed for is believed.

Tsawhal even means shouting for joy. We appreciate this when the chiefs, the priests, the Levites, and the heads of the houses burst into shouts of joy when they see how the house of the Lord was restored (**Ezra 3:12 KJV**); That must be the rejoicing when we see a person being restored by the Lord. Another meaning of this word is to shine, and it is evidenced when with rejoicing we announce the virtues of our God, pointing out his might as when He rises from heaven and sharpens his shining sword to defeat his enemies (**Deuteronomy 32:41 KJV**). Tsawhal is also joyful, manifesting itself because the joy of the heart is reflected in the face (**Proverbs 15:13 KJV**). This rejoicing is a remedy that turns a broken spirit into joy (**Proverbs 17:22 NIV**). David asked the Lord to restore the joy of his salvation (**Psalms 51:12**), joy that is obtained in the presence of the Lord, which he lost by transgressing, sinning and committing iniquity against God; David rejoiced in recovering the ark of the covenant, that is, recovering the manifest presence of the Lord (**2 Samuel 6:14 NIV**).

# TSAACHAQ: LAUGH, REJOICE

By Sergio Llicardié

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Genesis 18:13-15	Genesis 39:14-17
Genesis 19:14, 21:9	Exodus 32:6
Genesis 26:8	Judges 16:25

Three of the most common forms of bodily expression of joy in the heart are: smiling, laughing, and even burst of laughter. All are progressive stages: the smile sprouts when something is pleasant or causes us happiness, but laughter and burst of laughter are expressions that accompany a greater degree of joy. They are also contagious: if someone smiles when they recognize us, we are usually

reciprocal, and we smile with that person. On a larger scale, if in a chat between friends someone laughs at a particular situation, others will laugh too; and some will laugh out loud, which will make the laughs



last for a longer time. But what happens if everyone laughs and one person doesn't? We would say that there is not a total harmony of the people in that rejoicing. This reflects the degree of perfection of love between people. We understand then that when the love is not perfect, yet there is no complete harmony between two or more individuals due to selfishness. That selfishness is synonymous with the individualism that does not allow us to rejoice in unison with those we love or should love. And as **Song of Solomon 1:4** puts it, if we (plural) do not rejoice and cheer (plural, together) in God, then love still needs to be perfected in our lives. So how do we rejoice and laugh together? One of the answers comes from the word classified in the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance with the Hebrew number 6711 Tsaachaq. Let's take this base verse, to which we will return later: *"And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter! All who hear about this shall rejoice with me" (Genesis 21:6 TLB)*. The word here translated as rejoice is 6711, whose meaning is: to laugh out loud (of joy or mockery), by implication joke, rejoice, laugh at, etc. This word appears 12 times in the Bible, of which 10 are in the book of Genesis and the remaining 2 in Exodus and Judges. This gives us the idea that the perfection of love is worked through the government of God (12) in the Tsaachaq laughter, giving us the key or genetics of the subject (Genesis) under a totality (10) of characteristics that we must achieve, and that they will be put to the test for us to bear witness (2) at some point in our lives.

Naturally, as the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance expresses it, this word is used not only in a positive sense but also in negative aspects that we must avoid. This is where the government (12) of God works for the perfecting of love. That is why in a very suggestive way, the first explanation of how to rejoice, how to laugh (even out loud) properly as siblings (together, as expressed in Song of Solomon), is described in the pair of the first two chronological verses where the word appears Hebrew 6711. And surprisingly for us, also teaches us how to do it and how not to (do it): the first verse shows us the correct application of how to rejoice in fellowship, while the second teaches us how not to do it. How beautiful!

Let's analyze the first verse of how we should rejoice or laugh properly: *"Then Abraham threw himself down in worship before the Lord, but inside he was laughing in disbelief! "Me, be a father?" he said*



*in amusement.* “Me—100 years old? And Sarah, to have a baby at 90?” (**Genesis 17:17 TLB**). Let’s review the context of this passage: God appears to Abram, asks him to be perfect. Abram falls on his face. God changes his name (to Abraham, **Genesis 17:5**) and gives him many promises about his seed. Finally, God changing Sarai’s name (to Sarah) promises Abraham that he will have a son from her and that from there, many nations and kings will be born. Abraham prostrates himself again and laughs, not mocking God but rejoicing on behalf of his wife along with God. His questions were not one of disbelief but of astonishment. That is why the Apostle Paul explains to us in **Romans 4:19** that Abraham believed, even though his body was old and Sarah could no longer conceive. He received the promise with joy, and so he laughed to himself!

**Genesis 17:18** seems to distort this explanation because Abraham asks God to remember Ishmael. But let us note that he does not do it contrary to his faith in the promise received; he does it as a father who thinks of his other son of his. And that is why God affirms to him that He will give him a son of Sarah (not admonishing him because he was not unbelieving) and that He will also bless Ishmael

(confirming that He has been pleased with Abraham). Abraham rejoiced in the right way, and so he was able to laugh properly before God! However, he was not like that with Sarah. After a time from the promise to Abraham, God revisits him. Abraham prostrates himself again and talks to God, and receives the promise of a son again. Still, this time Sarah was nearby, listening to the conversation at the tent door that was behind. The following happens: *“That is why Sarah did not she could contain her laughter as she thought to herself: “So Sarah laughed to herself and said, “Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too”* (**Genesis 18:12 GNT**). Let us note several points: first, Sarah did not prostrate as Abraham did; she did not worship or show faith or respect before what God had just said. Then she laughs. Abraham had done it too. But there is a significant difference between the two laughs: Abraham does it believing, rejoicing in a miracle in old age, while Sarah does it in disbelief, mocking and giving a merely sexual connotation of the human impossibility that in her mind prevented it from being done. God’s will.

After this experience, Sarah learns that God’s will enables us to rejoice in a proper way using faith. And

that is why in **Genesis 21:6**, we see that she smiles and rejoices not only with her husband but even becomes a vase so that others rejoice along with her. God perfected her love in Tsaachaq’s laughter, and where she was defeated, there she was victorious! May the joy Tsaachaq also come upon us!

# RÚA: BURST INTO PRAISE

By Fernando Alvarez

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Numbers 10:7	1 Samuel 17:20
Joshua 6:10	Job 38:7
Judges 15:14	Psalms 47:1

The songs, cheers and the exhilaration describing the following verse come from the fulfillment of the word of the Lord. These manifestations include the repentance of the nations, all those who are not Israelites, and the restoration of the people of Israel, which will happen during tribulations and judgments due to men's evil.

*"Shout for joy, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, Israel! Rejoice and triumph with all your heart, Daughter of Jerusalem!" (Zephaniah 3:14 NASB).* It is not surprising to see the Lord's people manifest



in this way, since God's mercy triumphs over all judgment (**James 2:13**) and the purpose for all of us is to proceed to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**) despite being worthy of each of the punishments described in the prophecy. That is why, this beautiful and glorious event will far exceed what a sentenced to death person upon receiving the pardon of a ruler; it is simply inexplicable. Summarizing, the source of so much excitement and happiness is the mercy of the Lord, and that mercy has a name: Jesus Christ. He established his church who is the recipient of said benefits before this prophecy takes place, so the joy and rejoicing must be greater since they can escape from the judgment that will come on earth (**Luke 21:36**). Remember then, humanity and Israel will erupt in cheers despite having gone through the tribulation, how much more the Church of the Lord Jesus who has the promise to leave the Earth before these events happen. This is incomprehensible to the mind of man, in fact, it is almost impossible to describe and explain it; for that reason, the teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit is necessary.

Once the context of this brief teaching has been explained, we can understand that the mercy of God manifests in diverse ways in the hearts of which we have welcomed to it and must be activated by the prophetic anointing, since the main task of each one of the five ministries is to perfect the saints (**Ephesians 4:12**). How do they do it? With the word and with the authority that comes from God. Note the instruction contained in **Zephaniah 3:14**: *"Shout for joy, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph."* It is implying that the Church, although having joy and rejoicing in her hearts does not find a way to express what she feels for the Lord. That is why it is necessary to free the mouths and hearts through the Lord's word (this instruction according to the original Hebrew means to give shouts of joy, acclamation, jubilation, rejoicing or alarm).

According to the Royal Spanish Academy, burst into means 'To utter suddenly and with force or violence



a voice, a sigh or other demonstration of pain or vehement passion.’ This definition takes us back to prophetic ministration like the three hundred mighty of Gideon, who instructed their troops to do whatever they see him to do, which remained as a testimony in the following exclamation: “... *By the sword of Jehovah, by the Gideon’s sword!*” (**Judges 7:20**). Or like the time that the prophet instructed the king regarding the battle when shooting the arrow, he said, “... *Lord’s Victory arrow! and Victory arrow over Aram!...*” (**2 Kings 13:17**). In both cases it is a cry of alarm, joy or jubilation, which leads us to the following reflection: faith is required, otherwise there would be no suitable receiver for this anointing, that’s why the word says that when someone receives a prophet as a prophet, prophet blessing receives (**Matthew 10:41**), this means that whoever receives a prophet, but he does without faith, he does not receive such a blessing. This was the case of King Joash, who was rebuked by Elisha for not having worked with enough faith.

Brothers, burst out or shout with voices of joy becomes a trait, a characteristic of the Church of the Lord Jesus and manifests itself in various forms and circumstances. The main one, the most important is when opening our hearts to the Lord and his presence enters in our life; as well as when the ark of the covenant entered the camp, they all shouted for joy (**1 Samuel 4:5**). Again, we see the prophetic anointing on the trumpets, both in the convocation around the meeting tent, church, as in those moments when our enemies revolt against us, there is when the Lord will remember and save us (**Numbers 10:9**). Another case is when trumpets activate the faith of the congregation to tear down strongholds of evil like the Israelites in Jericho (**Joshua 6:5**). The cries of alarm and joy manifest the fullness of the Holy Spirit and they renew the strength of the weary and downcast, to rise and achieve victory in Christ Jesus (**1 Samuel 17:52**), which is explained in the Lord’s word when he says that the power of the Lord is perfected in our weakness (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). This

and many more examples take us to the following conclusion: we shout because the Lord is good and his mercy is forever (**Ezra 3:11**), since he has rescued us from the pit of destruction, from the muddy hole and has put our feet on firm rock (**Psalms 40:2**), he has washed us, changed our garments and has made us beneficiaries of a better covenant (**Luke 15:22-24**), making us joint heirs with Him (**Romans 8:17**).

All these gifts and promises provoke joy and rejoicing in our hearts like a gift that comes down from heaven: “*Joy you put in my heart...*” (**Psalms 4:7**), this is something that we know and believe, so we will not stop say the things we have heard, seen, beheld and felt for the verb of life (**1 John 1:1**).

# RANAN: PRAISE OR EXALT

By Hari Chacón

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Matthew 24:12 NASB  
 Psalm 63:7, 98:4 NASB  
 Zechariah 2:10 NASB

Through God's word, we can see the intensity of God's love, through his only begotten son, our lord Jesus Christ who came to take our place and gave us salvation and eternal life. God's purpose is that we can always rejoice, praise, and exalt him with freedom despite the circumstances, problems and even illness or relative's death. To avoid devastation due to tough situations or circumstances, we

must have an indispensable element, love: *"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"* (**Deuteronomy 6:5 NASB**). This passage teaches that for



us to rejoice, praise and exalt him, it is essential to love him with all our being. So, according to these thoughts we see that the Lord himself guides us, so we learn to love him and rejoice. That is why the beloved one asks him and says: *"Take me with you, and we'll run away; be my king and take me to your room. We will be happy together, drink deep, and lose ourselves in love. No wonder all women love you!"* (**Song of Solomon 1:4 NASB**).

In different verses of The Bible, we find one of the words that means to rejoice, which is identified in the New Exhaustive Strong's Concordance with the numeral H7442 Ranan: *"Rejoice, you nations, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will return vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land and His people"* (**Deuteronomy 32:43 NASB**). This word has several biblical meanings: crunch (make a shrill sound), shout, clap, cheer, sing, cry out, shout, rejoice, rejoice, among others.

## Rejoicing and jubilant song for the protection of the Lord

Before the constant attack of the enemy towards the children of God a series of contrary feelings can be unleashed in the Christians' hearts that will try to make love wane to God, as The Bible says: *"And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will become cold"* (**Matthew 24:12 NASB**). This situation decreases the daily intense feeling and desire to get closer to the Lord and to his coming. In those moments we must remember that Jehovah is our protector, and he will keep each of our days, he is our shelter, protection, and consequently his love will cause us to rejoice and sing with rejoicing: *"But rejoice, all who take refuge in You, sing for joy forever! and may You shelter them, that those who love your name may rejoice in You"* (**Psalms 5:11 NASB**). It is necessary to emphasize that rejoicing during the trial can be achieved by loving his Name so we can enter that virtuous circle of loving, rejoicing, and receiving the joy of having refuge in Him.

## Rejoicing at the victory and the welfare of the brothers



It is a fact that we all see for well-being and that every good thing that comes from Father come to us without measure, however, we must remember that the Bible also says: *“And He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself”* (**Matthew 22:37-39 NASB**). Loving your neighbor like the Lord Jesus asks implies that we put ourselves in the circumstances of those in trouble to ask God for them, something that, incidentally, is relatively simple. Nor should we forget to enjoy ourselves with those who enjoy themselves, even though this turns out to be a more challenging situation, *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”* (**Romans 12:15 NASB**). If we fill our heart with love to God surely, we can enjoy the privilege of celebrating the victories of our siblings and relatives as expressed the Bible: *“We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God, we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your desires”* (**Psalms 20:5 NASB**).

#### **Praise with joy for his mercy**

The current situation in the world is undoubtedly the harder than humankind has ever lived, anguish has come to touch the hearts of many children of God through violence, job shortages and financial resources. The disease itself has scourged the world and has even seen the departure of some loved one. But how have you read since the beginning, the one whose heart is grateful to the Lord can have peace and joy even during difficulties. *“But as for me, I will sing of Your strength; yes, I will joyfully sing of your faithfulness in the morning, for You have been my refuge and a place of refuge on the day of my distress”* (**Psalms 59:16 NASB**). This verse of the Bible should be part of our hope and conviction that the Lord has everything under control, that we will not stop rejoicing and praising his most holy name, no matter what happens in our life, we will always have the certainty that his will is sovereign, good and full of mercy, so, as not to find nonsense in what happens to us, knowing that the anguish that may have come to our life is fleeting and that by singing with joy and entering into his presence rejoicing will comfort our soul.

Dear reader, if you have already received the Lord Jesus as your savior, you have received the love of

God and this gives you the privilege of being able to rejoice, praise and the joy of being able to exalt him. Do not allow anyone or anything to takes the joy out of your heart no matter the situation that may arise in life. Persevere, do not lose your joy, praise, and exalt Jehovah, He is good, and his mercy is forever! I bless you in the name of Jesus.

# SIYS: BE HAPPY OR REJOICE IN GREAT WAY

By Julio Lacán

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalms 68:3                      Zephaniah 3:17  
 Psalms 119:14, 119:162  
 Isaiah 35:1, 65:18



Throughout the Bible we see that love has power and enemies that rise to drown it down. However, we must get to know love in order to experience its different levels: love God, love ourselves, love our neighbor and our enemies. One of the enemies revolting against love is selfishness (**1 Corinthians 13:5 NASB**). Selfishness manifests in those who seek their own will and their own opinion, etc. So,

God uses the things that are done in common to destroy selfishness for example. Brothers and sisters, the early church had many things in common and this allowed it to grow spiritually (**Acts 2:42, 2:45,**

**5:42, 8:14-17, 19:6**), despite facing problems that threatened it (**1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 11:18**). God wants us to reach a level of unity and not of individualism to strip from ourselves and from our desires to know his love. This is how the Lord teaches us to love: *“Draw me after you and let’s run together! The king has brought me into his chambers. The Chorus We will rejoice in you and be joyful; We will praise your love more than wine. Rightly do they love you”* (**Song of Solomon 1:4 NASB**). In this verse are four common actions that teach us to perfect love through unity: running, rejoicing, enjoying, and remembering. To develop this theme, we will take as a basis the following verse: *“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a groom puts on a turban, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels”* (**Isaiah 61:10 NASB**). The word rejoice comes from the Hebrew word H7797 Siys, which means to bright which is happy. This manifestation of joy and happiness comes when we experience what is describe in this verse.

## Be in God

The first thing we can mention are the joy and happiness that come from rejoice and be glad in Jehovah. At this point I want to emphasize the importance of being in God, because as we have learned, it is very different to be with God than to be in God. The first action (to joy perfect unity) is to be one with Christ, who raised a prayer for each of us, so we may be one in the Father and the Son, and thus be perfected in unity, so his love manifests in us (**John 17:21-23**).

## Salvation garments

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God dressed them to cover them, so they wouldn’t be ashamed of what they had done (**Genesis 3:10**). Since we have sinned, God manifested his love to us through the perfect sacrifice of a Lamb, the one of whom the Prophet John said: *“The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”* (**John 1:29 NASB**). *“But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God”*



**(Hebrews 10:12 NASB).** Brothers and sisters, let us take care of the garments of salvation that God has given us because He paid for them with his blood.

### Mantle of Justice

We must appreciate the Bible's teachings to be surrounded by justice. *"You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your companions. All Your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia; From ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You joyful"* **(Psalms 45:7-8 NASB).** This verse teaches us to love justice and to hate what upsets God by distancing ourselves from the world things because the world friendship is enmity with God, so God can pour oil of joy on our lives. This mantle of justice represents the coverage of God's true ministers, who are clothed in righteousness and can cover us with this important ministerial mantle **(Job 29:14).** Consequently, people rejoice during songs to God **(Psalm 132:9).**

### Dressed as a groom

Dressing up is dressing in the best clothes. One of the translations of the word Siys is to be brilliant. The Bible shows us how to make our garments shine bright to get ready for the wedding with our Beloved one. Prayers are one of the elements that make the garments shine. *"And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming"* **(Luke 9:29).** When we pray, we unify ourselves in one spirit. Prayers are one of the pillars of the early church. In **Revelation 3:4** says that there were a few in the church of Sardis that did not stain their clothes, who by being kept in that way were called worthy, this teaches to keep ourselves, so that our garments always remain white **(Ecclesiastes 9:8).**

### Like a jeweled bride

Rebeca, prior to get married, received jewelry as gifts. That is why, in the Bible we see that there are several types of gifts and their individual effects: God's gift for us: eternal life **(Romans 6:23)**, for the thirsty ones: water of life **(Revelation 22:17)**. For church: gifts in form of men **(Ephesians 4:7-8)**. The wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit is guidance to all truth **(Acts 2:38)**. The gifts of the Holy Spirit who

have been left to edify us **(1 Corinthians 13:2)**. Each of these gifts are reachable to us and are for the service of the body of Christ.

Brothers and sisters, the joy that comes from God exceeds wealth and that is why we must deeply look for it, so His joy may be manifested in us and impact those around us. *"May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; May those who love Your salvation continually say, The Lord be exalted!"* **(Psalms 40:16 NASB).**

# SAWCHAG: DANCE, PLAY AN INSTRUMENT

By Louissette Moscoso / Pablo y Giovanni Sandoval

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Ecclesiastes 3:3-4	Job 5:22
2 Samuel 6:21	Jeremiah 15:17, 31:4
2 Chronicles 30:10	Lamentations 1:7

The Lord always wants to bless us and one of the ways he does it is by giving us a permanent joy in our heart through granting genuine, timeless, and healthy motives. This joy can have various manifestations: laughter, dance, games, songs, etc. In the Bible are more than 20 words that have been translated as joy and this time we are going to analyze the one that comes from the Hebrew root

H7832 Sawchag, which according to the BDB Dictionary means: laugh, play, mock, laugh (usually with contempt or taunt), to play sports, to play, to joke (including music instrumental, singing, dancing),



and laugh derisively. In this definition we can understand that this form of joy can be used for a good cause or good, or to tease and mock someone, this means that we must learn to properly channel joy, laughter, happiness and not make the mistake of rejoicing in what is not right but rejoicing in the things that the Lord gives us, which make Him happy. Next, we will see several verses where the word Sawchag appears.

Sawchag joy may come because of a victory that God has given us, but at the same time can cause annoyance in those who do not understand or accept our motives: *“Now it happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with other musical instruments. The women sang as they played, and said, Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousand” (1 Samuel 18:6-7 NASB)*. In this passage we can appreciate that all the people of Israel were glad for the victory against Goliath and the Philistines, but not like this, the heart of Saul, since he was jealous of the song that attributed more appreciation to David than to him, and from that moment he no longer viewed David with good eyes. After Saul’s death, when the Philistines returned the ark of the covenant (figure of the presence of God) that had been stolen, David decided to bring it over, this recovery made him dance of joy. David dance made Michal, his wife, despise him in her heart. *“When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and celebrating; and she despised him in her heart” (1 Chronicles 15:29 NASB)*. David was happy and manifested it by dancing, it was a joy that came from God because he knew that his house would be blessed and prospered by the presence of God, but Michal was not interested in that, for that reason she saw him with contempt and therefore she got sterile and could not give children to David.

The above teaches us how careful we should be because our laughter should not be to make fun of someone, as this is something that God disapproves. In some cases, mockery can be used in favor of some children of God, as it happened with Samson since it can lead us to reflect and get right with Him: *“It so happened when they were in high spirits, that they said, call for Samson, that he may amuse*



us. So, they called for Samson from the prison, and he entertained them. And they made him stand between the pillars. Then Samson said to the boy who was holding his hand, let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, so that I may lean against them. Now the house was full of men and women, and all the governors of the Philistines were there. And about three thousand men and women were on the roof looking on while Samson was entertaining them” (**Judges 16:25-27 NASB**). This passage shows us a clear example of how you can detract from joy towards derision and mockery of someone who can’t defend himself, which, like we said, it doesn’t please God. Beloved brothers, Let’s trying to get away from scoffers to be able to participate in the joy that God brings.

Another aspect that we must consider is the incorrect way to channel joy can become a kind of game where someone can be affected, causing strife and even someone’s death: “Then Abner said to Joab, Now have the young men arise and hold a martial skills match in our presence. And Joab said, have them arise!” (**2 Samuel 2:14 NASB**). Wrestling shows have been enjoyed since ancient times, even today, these shows have been considered as sports

disciplines. Within these are boxing, and other types of fights such as men against animals, bullfights, rooster’s fights, among others. These shows generate profit and make you earn a lot of money through entertainment of many people who enjoy and pay for these shows, who to some extent and for the most part are bloodthirsty and in some cases participants have died. We, as children of God, must not seek this kind of joy, which hurt the people and animals and attempt to their lives. On the other hand, a good reason to rejoice is God’s restoration and mercy that causes a genuine and non-fleeting joy for us, “*This is what the Lord says: Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings; And the city will be rebuilt on its ruins, And the palace will stand on its rightful place. From them will come a song of thanksgiving and the voices of those who celebrate; and I will multiply them, and they will not decrease; I will honor them, and they will not be insignificant*” (**Jeremiah 30:18-19 NASB**). This joy must last a lifetime as we see the faithfulness of the Lord who has restored us and shown us mercy.

Brothers, the deceiver hides his bad intentions disguising them through jokes, that’s why we must avoid them, since they carry the intention to hurt

and to offend others, “*So is a person who deceives his neighbor, and says, was I not joking?*” (**Proverbs 26:19 NASB**). It is important to remember that there is a warning to those who have misused their joy, because the Bible says, “*Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep*” (**Luke 6:25 NASB**). Yet, there is hope for the woman that the Lord has considered virtuous and that will marry Him because “*Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future*” (**Proverbs 31:25 NASB**). The Church of Christ has been given the ability to smile through joy Sawchag because, although, there is terror and uncertainty in the world, she smiles, before the secret Lord’s coming, as an operation of grace described in **1 Peter 1:13**.

# SAMACH: BE HAPPY OR REJOICE

By Sammy Pérez / Miguel Ochoa

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalm 118:24	Matthew 6:33
Song of Solomon 4:1	2 Samuel 6:16
Luke 12:15	1 Timothy 1:11



Joy is a feeling of happiness or pleasure experienced in owning or expecting an asset, feel happiness or joy for something. Psalm 118 is exactly in the Bible's center, and the verse 24 teaches us that we should rejoice when our enemies surround us. This seems counter-productive because during a dark environment it is almost impossible to have joy, however, the word of God teaches that, it is possible to have joy during difficulty. For example, when God tells us that we must have joy even during trial (**James 1:2**). To receive this joy, it

is it is necessary to ask the Lord to draw us to Him, with cords of love as mentioned in the Bible (**Hosea 11:4NASB**). After being attracted we can run towards the blessings that he has given promised us and may we rejoice and be glad in Him (**Song of Solomon 1:4**).

Rejoice comes from the Hebrew word H8055 Samach or Samáj and means contentment, joy, rejoice, be happy. Usually, this verb refers to a spontaneous emotion, an intense joy expressed visibly and / or externally, according to the Vine Dictionary. The Hebrew words that are used in the Bible to refer to joy, gladness, rejoicing, and jubilation express various nuances or levels of joy. The verbs or nouns used in Psalm 118:24 denote both feelings as internal and external manifestation of joy. Sometimes, as stated above, Joy can be accompanied by various manifestations, such as being joyful (**1 Thessalonians 5:16**), rejoice (**Philippians 4:4**), shout for joy (**Psalm 27:6**), jump for joy (**Luke 24:41**), etc. It is interesting that this type of joy does not refer to a perennial or lasting emotion. The first time the term Samach is used is when the Lord tells Moses that his brother Aaron is coming to his meeting and seeing him rejoices in his heart, the manifestation of that joy was expressed by kissing him (**Exodus 4:14-27**), this means that this type of joy is manifested with one action, but in others, sometimes the rejoicing is over good news (**1 Samuel 11:9**).

Today, many Christians have lost the joy of their salvation because of the unwelcome news that the world broadcasts constantly, some have forgotten that the true gospel brings hope, health, and happiness. The world is so subtle and deceptive that it makes many Christians think that the true happiness is in the material things, which is completely wrong (**Luke 12:15**). This does not mean that we should not seek for a better economy for our families, yet the Bible states that we must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**). Our happiness depends on the Lord and not on an event



or circumstance. On the other hand, we see many Christians who have their emotions hurt and this makes them often repress their joy. The Spanish Research and Science website has an article called “*Overcome the fear of happiness*,” where it is mentioned that some people avoid their positive emotions for fear of being happy, believing they don’t deserve to be happy for fear of awakening envy. This same phenomenon develops in some cultures, especially in Latin American countries, which promote fear and insecurity of feelings like happiness and joy due to anxiety or worries. This leads us to consider that bad ministrations from an early Christians stage can affect their spiritual growth. We can see a negative example in Moses who considered himself a stutterer (**Exodus 4:10**). However, quite the opposite happened to David when he expressed his joy jumping and dancing when he saw the ark of the covenant in his city (**2 Samuel 6:16**).

The Bible teaches that our Lord is a happy and expressive God who rejoices in his works (**1 Timothy 1:11; Psalm 104:31**), we see an example of God’s joy in: “*The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will rejoice over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy*” (**Zephaniah 3:17 NASB**). The same way, He wants us all to enjoy and rejoice of the work of our hands (**Ecclesiastes 5:19**). Let’s see how to rejoice and what to rejoice in.

#### **The Word of God is joy to the heart (Psalm 19:8)**

The Bible is the Word of God, through it the Lord has sworn that we will be happy for the rest of our lives. Also, remember that the joyful heart beautifies the face, but a bitter heart distorts the face, as happened with Cain, who changed his countenance (**Proverbs 15:13; Jeremiah 15:11**). This teaches us to rest on his promises because He is not a man to lie neither a son of man to repent, he will fulfill his promises. (**Numbers 23:19**). Good news provides joy

(**Proverbs 12:25 NASB**); however, the Lord does not please with bad news bearers, the Bible teaches that spies who brought bad reports to the Israel’s people died due to a plague that the Lord sent (**Numbers 14:37**). Christians get sick when listen to bad news, but those who hear the good news will grow strong (**Proverbs 15:30**).

#### **A wise son makes a father glad (Proverbs 15:20)**

Children are another source of joy and much more when they are wise and seek the Lord. That’s why the Bible says that those who love wisdom make their father happy, but those who live disorderly squanders their fortune (**Proverbs 29:3**). The Lord’s mercy brings joy and rejoicing (**Psalm 31:7**) The Bible teaches us that God’s mercy brings rejoicing during challenging times. When we are freed from tribulations and afflictions, we can see the great goodness of the Lord to those who fear Him and take him as refuge (**Psalm 31:19**).

# SAMEACH: HAPPY OR JOYFUL

By Edwin Castañeda

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Proverbs 15:13

1 Kings 1:40

Psalms 126:3

Nehemiah 8:10

Deuteronomy 16:15



The news, social media posts, and many conversations are about conspiracies, population control, control of the minds, the economic crisis, vaccine side effects, and other topics that may cause fear or uneasiness, but God's Word is clear in saying that we cannot let ourselves be carried away by it: *"Do not call everything a conspiracy*

*that these people say is a conspiracy. Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified"* (**Isaiah 8:12 CSB**).

What we see and live today is part of the eschatological scenarios, and the Lord in his infinite mercy

shows it to us so that we prepare ourselves, as our redemption is drawing near. For this reason, we must straighten up and raise our heads as **Luke 21:28** says, since we know that glorious times await us next to our Beloved.

The world is experiencing times of great upheaval, and in some homes, sadness, mourning, and fear have entered. For these reasons, a part of God's people, in one way or another, has lost joy, happiness and rejoicing in the Lord. This is alarming because the devil's strategy is to override God's order to be constantly joyful (**1 Thessalonians 5:16**).

The last part of **Nehemiah 8:10 CEB** says, *"...Don't be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!"* Sadness will undoubtedly come, but if we take refuge in the Lord, He can change and transform mourning, pain, anguish, and sorrow into gladness, joy, and dance (**Psalms 30:11**). However, we need to long for it because God is a gentleman and will knock on the door to show us the way out. Let's try to walk after him and towards that exit. We cannot remain standing on the shore or stuck on the road. This is not a time to rest or stop looking for the presence of the Lord. If you have gladness and joy, this article is for you; the Lord wants you to receive Sameach joy. According to the Significados dictionary, gladness is a state of mind produced by a favorable event and usually manifests itself in external signs such as a smile, a good mood, and personal well-being. The root of the word means alive and cheerful. The meaning found in this dictionary is interesting because gladness is related to the smile and the state of mind. In this sense, I could ask you when was the last time you laughed out loud, or how is your mood? These elements, although they seem insignificant, have a significant impact on our body. In **Proverbs 15:13**, the Bible says, *"A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed."* The word 'glad' in the previous verse comes from the Hebrew H8056 Sameach, which according to the



New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is translated as 'cheerful, make happy, gladness, content, joyful, enjoy, and rejoice.' The Chávez Dictionary translates it as 'great rejoicing.' Gladness can be seen on our face, so it can be reflected in our smile. It can even manifest itself as a joy that comes from God, which will abound in such a way that it will be expressed in the form of songs, praise, or dance. The Bible describes this powerful relationship in the last part of **James 5:13 NIV**: "...Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise." It is interesting that gladness in praise produces great rejoicing, which can even change a difficult or adverse situation and give you victory. We can see an example of this impact of rejoicing when Solomon was anointed as a king. The people went up to Jerusalem, and there was so much gladness, joy, and rejoicing (Sameach) that the earth trembled, it was shaken by the voices and the sound of songs (**1 Kings 1:40**).

Isaac, whose meaning is laughter, is representative

of the joy that God wants to give us. Therefore, the enemy will try to prevent us from obtaining it at all costs. "Now Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me" (**Genesis 21:5-6 NASB**). When we bear fruit, we have a genuine laugh, as happened to Sarah. Another enemy of Isaac or of laughter (gladness) is sterility, but this same verse shows the strategy to overcome it because it was defeated by Isaac when he prayed; laughter overcame sterility by praying (**Genesis 25:21**). So, the fact of not bearing fruit can diminish our joy, even on economic aspects, and not knowing how to manage our resources can cause us sterility and take away our joy. For that reason, we need to bless the work of our hands and pray that God blesses every area of our lives. Isaac went to Gerar because there a famine (**Genesis 26:1**); you may be experiencing spiritual or physical hunger. If you are spiritually hungry, you need to read and meditate more on the Bible and cry out to the Lord

to send Rhemas into your life (**Jeremiah 33:3**). A powerful weapon to obtain spiritual food is tithe because **Malachi 3:10** says that for there to be food (H2964 victim), we must bring and present the tithes to the storehouse; that way, abundance will come into our life and fill us with Sameach joy.

Nowadays, when many people are suffering and terrible things await the world, we cannot help but express what **Psalms 126:3 ESV** says, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."

# SIMKHAW: GLADNESS OR JOY

By Rafael Molina

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalms 30:11

Proverbs 21:15

Psalms 68:4

Zephaniah 3:17

Proverbs 12:20



The Lord put the man in the garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it (**Genesis 2:15**). The word 'care' is also translated as 'tend' or 'serve.' Before the fall of man, the original purpose was for us to serve and use the things that God had placed in the garden of Eden. Adam's eyes had never seen such beauty, and I can imagine that

there was not even a meaning in his mind to define that pleasant and gratifying emotion that he felt, which we call joy and gladness. We were born to serve God, to care for what He cares for, to voluntarily

give our lives to him, and then let him show us the way to evolve into the destiny that He lovingly planned for each one of us. Man, because of sin, lost that state of constant joy and rejoicing, was separated from God, and had to serve himself with the sweat of his face. Sadness invaded his heart, and he gradually moved away from his original purpose. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**) and that apart from God we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). Adam's children also found their own way of serving the Lord: one lost the joy of being grateful because he laid his eyes only on the earth, and the other (Abel) understood that his joy was to please God and presented his most valuable things as an offering. When we lose joy and gladness, the first symptom is feeling envy of our brothers or sisters, and then, bitterness comes when we see that they are doing better than us. Hasn't it happened to you that you focus so much on your daily effort that you forget the goodness of the Lord and you begin to see the good of your brothers and sisters with bad eyes? Being away from God's presence prevents us from reaching the original joy with which we were created. Serving God is one of the greatest privileges that human beings have. Surrendering our lives before him and let him do his will in us produces a joy beyond words. Sadly, that joy can fade away, and at some point, we can come to miss so much giving ourselves in love for him that our hearts will feel a deep sadness. **Deuteronomy 28:47-48 ESV** says, "Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you..." The word 'joy' in this verse is the original Hebrew word 'Simkhaw' (Strong's H8057) which means gladness or joy. The previous verse is a severe reprimand from God towards the people because they had not listened to his voice, had not kept his commandments, and had stopped serving the Lord with joy and gladness.

Dear brothers and sisters, knowing Christ and letting him enter our heart and destiny gave our lives a



new meaning. We began a process of regeneration, our way of living was ordered, and his mercy progressively guided us to face his plan in us. We cannot let sin keep us away from God's presence and from serving him, as it happened to Adam. We must understand that God is the only one who can make us happy; the rest of the things will be added to our lives as gifts that God gives us because he loves us.

In **Nehemiah 8**, the Lord's people are standing listening to the reading of the law from the mouth of the governor Nehemiah, and Ezra, the high priest; after having completed the reconstruction of the city wall, there should have been joy among them, but there was a lot of fear and sadness instead. Nehemiah, accompanied by Ezra and the Levites who were teaching the people, rose and declared to the people, *"...This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep. For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said*

*to them, Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength"* (**Nehemiah 8:9-10 ESV**). Other versions of the Bible say, *"The joy of the Lord will make you strong."* Do you realize that serving God has enemies? If we lose the joy of the Lord, where will we get the strength to serve him?

The same Hebrew word SIMKHAW appears in **1 Samuel 18:6 ESV**, when David returned from striking down the Philistine (Goliath): *"...the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy [simkhaw], and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands."* Here, we can see that defeating our enemies also produces joy and happiness. You should know that although many have risen against you, more are those who are with you than those who

are against you (**2 Kings 6:16**). The enemy wants you to feel surrounded, intimidated, and afraid so that you do not reach the fullness of joy in the Lord. The enemy of your soul is in constant battle against God's purpose in your life, and his most common method to damage it is to disqualify the power and greatness of the Lord in your mind. You should also know that Jesus conquered death (**Hebrews 2:14**), the greatest enemy of man. You should know that the record of debt that stood against us was nailed to the cross (**Colossians 2:14**). You and I must believe that the enemy was defeated and that we are protected by our David, that is, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Knowing this allows us to fully enjoy ourselves. One more recommendation: do all that is necessary to find your vocation in God; when you have found it, never let it go. If you have asked to be happy and have joy in your life, stay on the path of salvation, that is Jesus Christ.

# SHAWAW: CHEER UP, CARESS, OR BE FONDLED

By Pablo Enríquez / Oscar Castro / Estuardo Herrarte

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Genesis 4:4                      Deuteronomy 27:10-26  
Exodus 30:20-21                Isaiah 41:10  
Leviticus 10:9



*“Uphold me that I may be safe, That I may have regard for Your statutes continually” (Psalm 119:117 NASB1995).* I may have regard (‘delight,’ in other versions) is the Hebrew word H8159 Shawaw. The fact of being able to have regard or delight in the Lord and in his statutes is a consequence of God upholding us. One of the meanings of ‘uphold,’ according to WordReference Dictionary, is ‘to support,’ ‘to hold up.’

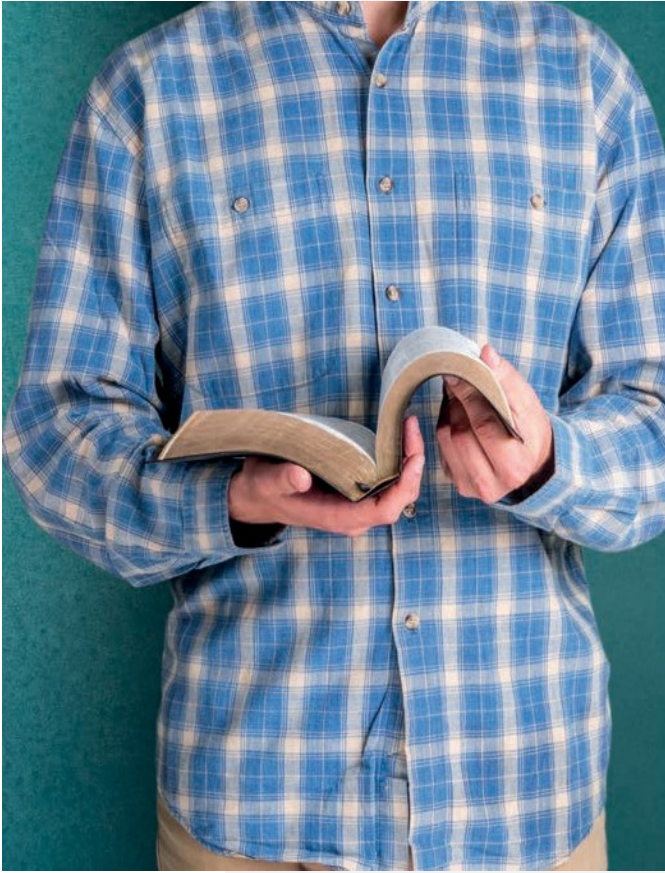
*“Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand” (Romans 14:4 ESV).* Upholding is

also defending a position, and rather than us defending the faith we profess, it is the Holy Spirit who gives the message, speaks, and convinces the listeners for us, thus upholding our lives. *“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit” (Mark 13:9-11 ESV).* To uphold is to help or take care of someone who needs it. The Lord comfort us in any valley we may walk through: *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalms 23:4 ESV).*

Upholding, according to the New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance H8159 Shawaw, can also mean ‘to give someone what is necessary for their maintenance.’ *“Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:9-11 ESV).* How joyful it is to know that God upholds his servants! *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1 ESV).* *“Then the Lord replied, I promise to protect you, and when disaster comes, even your enemies will beg you for help” (Jeremiah 15:11 CEV).*

Because of the gratitude that springs in our hearts to know that God upholds us, we as his children keep his statutes and rejoice in them: *“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23 ESV).* *“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6 NIV).* The Bible shows the statutes in which those upheld by God rejoice. Let’s see:

## The Passover



*“You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever” (Exodus 12:24 ESV).* When reading the context of this verse, we can see that the Passover feast was the commemoration of Israel’s freedom from Egypt, where God struck down all the firstborn of that land and protected the houses of Israel from the destruction that the Lord brought that day. This feast involved the sacrifice of a lamb, and the blood was the sign of protection so that the destroyer did not enter the houses of God’s people at that time (**Exodus 12**). This feast was representative of what was to come, since Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God, was sacrificed and became our Passover: *“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us” (1 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV).* In other words, the Lord’s Supper is the Passover where believers in Christ eat the bread and drink the wine of the Supper with rejoicing, since thanks to the blood of Christ, our works have been approved before the Lord. *“Go then, eat your bread in happiness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works” (Ecclesiastes 9:7 NASB).*

### **Destruction of Idolatry**

*“These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. 2 You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree” (Deuteronomy 12:1-2 ESV).* This statute was to destroy idolatry to be able to build an altar to the Lord, thus presenting pleasant offerings in his presence (**Deuteronomy 12:4-7**). This represents the power to cast away everything that does not please the Lord, putting aside everything that we have as an idol in our hearts, which removes the pre-eminence that the Lord should always have over anything or anyone. Only a person who takes the hand of the Lord to be upheld can rejoice in fulfilling this statute that, as an eternal principle, tells us that the first place in our hearts will always be the Lord.

### **The Offering**

*“It shall be from the children of Israel for Aaron and his sons by a statute forever. For it is a heave offering; it shall be a heave offering from the children*

*of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, that is, their heave offering to the Lord” (Exodus 29:28 NKJV).* God loves and sees with pleasure a person who rejoices in the statute of giving, giving with joy and not reluctantly: *“Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7 NASB).* Only those who understand that the Lord is our provider, and that he (and not our possessions) upholds us every day, can give of what they have to bless someone else and give offerings with joy of heart. Amen!

# SHAWAH: CHEER UP, CARESS, OR BE FONDLED

By Jimena de Enríquez

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Psalms 119:70

Luke 15:23-24

Song 1:2, 4, 4:10

John 14:16

Isaiah 6:10, 66:12-13



*"In the multitude of my [anxious] thoughts within me, your comforts cheer and delight my soul!" (Psalms 94:19 AMPC).* Today, we face countless situations that make so much noise in our head and soul that they feel like the sound of crowds shaking our reasoning and leading to questions that produce confusion

in our soul. They can become anxieties that lead to sadness. The previous verse describes how the psalmist was also in anguish, with thousands of thoughts going round and round in his head. However,

the verses before this one show how he came to God's feet, and then he states that amid that multitude of thoughts and anguish, his soul was happy to be comforted by his Lord. It was a joy that caused many things to be silenced in his soul. Basically, this verse begins in anguish and confusion and ends with joy. Undoubtedly, the Lord wants to bring joy, delight, pleasure, and satisfaction to our lives when we approach him. He wants to allow our human nature to diminish and that the loving nature of Christ grows more each day in us.

The word 'cheer' that we can be read at the beginning is the word H8173 Shawah that the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance translates as 'to cheer, caress or be fondled.' It can also be interpreted as 'look upon with complacency, please, or have fun.' This word appears at least eight times in the Old Testament. It is mentioned mainly in Psalms and later in Isaiah. If we read the verses in which this word is mentioned, it seems that the psalmist shows us an evolution from a stage where the soul prevails to a close relationship with the Lord that leads us to full delight. We can deduct this because he begins by mentioning a caress that King David perceived from the Lord when abandoning those deep noisy thoughts, until he reached the feet of the Lord and found his consolations, which were like caresses or fondling (according to the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance) that he received from the Lord.

We can also see another way to obtain Shawah from God: *"I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word" (Psalm 119:16 ESV).* The word 'delight' is Shawah. This version presents another form of Shawah, which is a synonym of enjoy. In the Oxford Dictionary 'delight' has several meanings; one of them is 'something that gives you great pleasure.' This phrase seems redundant when talking of statutes and word. However, the psalmist is showing that to have intimacy with God, we must yearn to enjoy, find great pleasure in carefully reading or listening to the words that the Lord has reflected



in his commandments, in his law. These are not imposed statutes. The word 'statutes' (H2708) means 'custom, decree, right, establish, statute, law, commandment, practice, rule.' According to the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, they are statutes that become part of ourselves, a custom, something that we put into practice and that we can enjoy doing. Every time we walk in that custom, in those commandments, we cannot stop thinking about those beautiful words that the Lord has pronounced in our favor; those words become a reality and remain in our lives because they come from God's nature (**Numbers 23:19**). They even become a law that controls the members of our body because we obtain what the Lord wants for us: *"Keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart"* (**Proverbs 7:2-3 ESV**).

As a result, we can say that we move to the next

level of Shawah. *"I will rejoice in your commandments because I love them"* (Psalm 119:47 CEB). The word used for 'rejoice' is Shawah. The word used for 'commandments' in this verse is not to the same one used in the previous passage; these commandments are actually a command, an obligation, according to the New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (H4687 divine mandate). However, these mandatory commands are not considered as an imposition or as a strange thing, because they are consistent with what is already written in our hearts. We know they come from Christ. Therefore, they do not seem like a heavy burden, but we take pleasure in them because we have fallen in love with them. His statutes and commandments reveal our Beloved, after whom we will run to rejoice together (**Song of Solomon 1:4**).

Brothers and sisters, this state of joy, complacency, and pleasure that we constantly receive from the revelation that God has given us through his Word inevitably reflects what God is continually doing in our lives. Ultimately, what we have in our hearts is

what our life reflects (**Proverbs 27:19**). This Shawah joy makes us get rid of all those thoughts that filled us with anguish and did not allow us to reach the fullness of love that the Lord wants us to have so we can run after him.

# SHAHSHOOAH: JOY OR DELIGHT

By Vilma Cruz

## BIBLE VERSES FOR STUDY

Ruth 4:7-9  
Ephesians 2:4-7, 2:10  
Romans 3:24, 10:17

Hebrews 4:16  
Ecclesiastes 12:11



The Lord is always interested in doing good to us, and he constantly guides us to be pleasing to his heart. He is pleased that we delight in everything we do, especially in his presence, since in any environment, we must dedicate our things and activities to him. The Apostle Paul understood that, so he was able to say with reliability, “so that I might finish my course with joy” (**Acts 20:24**). We need to understand

that we cannot end with joy if we do not delight in the process. Achieving that is not easy, and therefore, we understand that this joy or delight is a manifestation of God’s grace. We can find this kind of delight

in the New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance under the word H8191 Shashúa, whose meaning is ‘joy, delight, enjoyment, enjoy, pleasure, delicious.’ This word comes from the root H8173 which means ‘to look upon with complacency, caress, please, stare, and fondle.’ The Lord speaks to us of this delight in the Bible, and in Psalm 119, we can find it five times, thus reflecting grace, because number five is representative of God’s grace that is transferred through the five ministries. “Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors” (**Psalm 119:24 ESV**). When the psalmist speaks of ‘testimony,’ he refers to everything that is a witness to something. For example, in the case of Ruth, when Boaz redeemed her along with her whole house, a kind of prophetic act was performed in front of the elders and the people, so that all bear witness to the redemption that had taken place (**Ruth 4:7**). We know that our Boaz is Christ, and he has redeemed us, so we are testimonies that we are no longer those enemies of the kingdom who continually offended the Lord, because He openly proclaimed a divine message as a testimony to his Church when he said, I come “to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord” (**Luke 4:19 NASB**), and we receive his testimonies, which provide us with joy.

“I will delight in Your commandments, which I love” (**Psalm 119:47 NASB**). In this passage, we can see the apostolic ministry reflected, since emphasis is placed on the commandments of the Lord, the law, order, or Word that comes from the mouth of God. This is transmitted to us through the head of the ministry who, like a loudspeaker, conveys to us blessings, conditions, and even limitations. Those of us who are covered by this ministry owe obedience to that voice and need to keep each instruction with joy of heart: “...continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (**Acts 2:46 NKJV**). When an apostle conveys the revelation of the Word of God, even if it was a reprimand, but our heart receives it knowing that it comes from the heart of God, what the Bible says becomes a reality for us: “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts” (**Jeremiah 15:16 ESV**).

“Their heart is insensitive, like fat, But I delight in Your Law” (**Psalms 119:70 NASB**). The first part of this verse talks about the insensitivity of a heart that is not compassionate because it does not



perceive the presence of the Lord. Someone without law is insensitive, but we have been blessed to be under the law of grace, which justified us freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. The second part of the previous verse in a Spanish version says, *“I delight in your will”* (**Psalm 119:70 BNP-Spanish Version**). We know that God’s will is *“good and pleasing and perfect”* (**Romans 12:2 NLT**). To put it into practice, we need to be disciplined by an expert in the Bible, a teacher who, like a father, teaches us with understandable words what pleases the Lord. That way, we can walk with integrity and according to God’s heart, rejoicing in the teaching that describes our Beloved. *“Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight”* (**Psalm 119:77 NIV**). In this verse, the psalmist shows his need for compassion and mercy to live. We know that the Lord is plenteous in mercy because of his great love for us and even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, he made us alive together with Christ. When we were evangelized, we experienced all these virtues, so let’s approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *“Trouble and suffering have come upon me, yet Your Word is my joy”* (**Psalm**

**119:143 NLV**). God’s Word is our joy because it gives us hope, it increases our faith when we listen to it, and it gives us life: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy...”* (**Romans 15:13 ESV**).

*“If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction”* (**Psalm 119:92 ESV**). When God revealed this to David, he received new hope, his mood was renewed, and his failing spirit received new life. The same Word of God that preserves the heavens and the Earth also preserves and sustains the people of God in the time of their greatest trial and deep pain. David delighted in the Lord because he trusted him. Let’s remember that some of the meanings of the word that we are studying is to ‘look upon with complacency, caress, and fondle.’ We need to take that into account and remember that the Lord is our good Shepherd: *“For thus says the Lord, Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you...”* (**Isaiah 66:12-13 NASB1995**). This is amazing, as is the incalculable grace of the Lord, which cannot be understood with the human mind, but only through the Holy Spirit.

That is why the Lord has poured out his joy and delight on us, from the time we were distant from him until we became his property. Through all this, God cleanses our wounds, heals us, and caresses us with his Words; he shows us his way so we can follow his steps; he makes his promises known to us so that they reach us; we are covered with double clothes and maintain the joy of the Lord throughout the process. That joy will give us delight to finish our course. This will cause our Father, who loves us with eternal love, to fix his gaze on our lives and fondle us. Hosanna!

# JOY AND GLADNESS



## Bawlag

Rejoice, take strength

- 1 We receive Bawlag joy when we are reached by the Lord's mercy that destroys all accusations of sin in our hearts.

## Geel

To be happy or to rejoice

- 2 Let's express with all our being the Geel joy that comes because of the salvation and the blessings that the Lord gave us.

## Toob

Joy or rejoicing

- 3 By being grateful and wise stewards of the gifts, goods, and blessings that the Lord has delegated to us, our hearts will be filled with Toob joy.

## Mawsoce

Joy or happiness

- 4 Let's delight in the greatest source of joy that is the Lord, and as his church, we will give Mawsoce joy unsparingly to all those around us.

## Alaz

Cheerful or rejoice

- 5 Even amid pain and destruction, we will jump for joy knowing that God is our shield; we will be comforted and receive Alaz joy.

## Alez

The one having fun

- 6 Moving away from the pleasures of the world and getting closer to God will fill us with Alez joy, which never ends despite the circumstances that surround us.

## Alats

To be happy or to rejoice

- 7 Let's share the Alats gladness and joy that comes as a result of being in the presence of the Lord seeing his promises and wonders fulfilled in our lives.

## Tsawhal

Cry out, give, shouts of joy

- 8 Knowing that God loves us beyond measure and that he is our deliverer and restorer causes us to shout for joy from within, and the Tsawhal joy is reflected on our face.

## Shahshooah

Joy or delight

- 19 Let's enjoy our Christian journey filled with the Shahshooah joy, which together with the five ministries lead us to walk and delight in his commandments.

## Tsaachaq

Laugh, rejoice

- 9 Let's show a correct laughter and joy, which arises from faith and hope in the promises of the Lord, which fill us with Tsaachaq joy.

## Rúa

Burst into praise

- 10 We must make it known to everyone that our Rúa joy is one of the many benefits of being the Lord's bride, as is being saved from things that will come to this Earth.

## Ranan

Praise or exalt

- 11 Let's take the liberty of rejoicing in the Lord through praise, clapping hands, and shouting for joy along with our brothers and sisters, for the victory and mercy that he gives us.

## Siys

Be happy or rejoice in great way

- 12 We will shine with Siys joy and gladness as a result of being united to God, as a bridegroom with his beloved who live to please each other.

## Sawchag

Dance, play an instrument

- 13 If we learn to have joy through healthy reasons, we will turn away from scoffers, who do not please the Lord, and thus he will fill us with his genuine Sawchag joy.

## Samach

Be happy or rejoice

- 14 Samach joy produces an action of gratitude and encourages our hearts through the good news that the Lord constantly sends.

## Sameach

Happy or joyful

- 15 We will bring Sameach joy and gladness into our lives by wisely managing the blessings that God gave us.

## Simkhaw

Gladness or joy

- 16 Serving the Lord with joy gives us strength to find our path and vocation. Let no one steal your desire to give your best years of life to God.

## Shawah

Cheer up, caress, or be fondled

- 17 Shawah joy will sustain us in any distressing situation we are going through, and we will rejoice as we do everything for the Lord.

## Shawah

Cheer up, caress, or be fondled

- 18 Let's not allow anguish to overwhelm our hearts. Let's ask for the Shawah joy, represented in the Bible, which comes as a caress to our lives.



# God is Good



LORD!!! Help us to love you more every day, to serve you more, because when we work with love and integrity, you are pleased with us; this refers not only to your work, but to any work that we perform with care and dedication. When we interact with other people, we must show impartiality and treat them all with kindness and respect, as you would. LORD, you were SO HUMBLE, UNDERSTANDING, and NATURAL. Even though you were a King, you became a servant and washed the feet of those men; you were rich and became poor; you sympathized with those who were hungry; you were free from sin, but had mercy on that woman, whom a crowd wanted to stone, accusing her of being an adulteress; you were perfect and took pity on us. LORD, how can we repay you so much kindness? How to thank you for forgiving us and giving us another chance, even though we constantly fail? LORD, please help us to please you, so that on that day, you will not tell us: I was sick, and you did not visit me; I was hungry, and you did not give me food; I was naked, and you did not clothe me; I was cold, and you did not shelter me; I was in prison, and you did not visit me.

LORD, help us so that we are not afraid of the future, because you are our future. Help us to fully trust in you, and even if the destroyer comes, he will pass over our houses because he will see the blood of the Lamb on the door posts. *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4 NASB).*

*Letty de Enríquez  
Guatemala, Central America.*



# RHENA *issue* A

— THE VOICE OF THE FIVE MINISTRIES —

