

“BACK IN THE DAY – THEY KNEW THE SECRET OF JOY”

**Psalm 16 and Psalm 126
Specific Text: Psalms 16:5-11; 126:5, 6**

We conclude this series of *Back In The Day* which has highlighted what the Christians and our ancestors did *Back In The Day* to not only survive, but to succeed. We have studied and learned each week great lessons and examples from the Bible which have assisted us in our growth and understanding of what our forefathers and foremothers did to be faithful Christians. They loved, obeyed, trusted, and followed God in spite of persecutions, difficult days, and hostile environments. Through it all they believed that God would see them through and that their faith in Jesus would never fail in times of darkness and despair.

The sermon this morning examines the secrets they knew, *Back In The Day*, that enabled them to remain faithful. Psalm 16 reveals several secrets which will be of immense benefit for us today if we apply them:

I. Verses to Meditate on During Lenten Season

- A. Verse 5 – God was all they wanted and He would keep them safe.
- B. Verse 6 – They believed that today was good, but tomorrow would be better.
- C. Verse 7 – God’s Word filled their minds in the darkest days.
- D. Verse 8 – They looked to God for protection from their fears.
- E. Verse 9 – Their joy in God gave them peace.
- F. Verse 10 – They knew God would never forsake or abandon them.
- G. Verse 11 – Because they knew, obeyed, trusted, and followed God, their path to success was clear and they were JOYFUL
—Full of Joy!!

These seven verses tell us that *Back In The Day* they knew the secret to finding and keeping God.

Psalm 126 shows that God does great things. His power to restore life is beyond our understanding. Even grief, suffering, slavery and discrimination are not a permanent condition. Our tears can be seeds that will grow into a harvest of joy because God is able to bring good out of tragedy. When burdened by sorrow, know that your times of grief will end and that you will find JOY. We must be patient as we wait. God’s great harvest of joy is coming!!

Psalm 30:5 “Weeping may remain for a night, but joy and rejoicing will come in the morning.”

Study the verses listed below to understand their joy *BACK IN THE DAY* and how you can expect and find joy today.

Readings for the Lenten Season

Ezra 6:22

Isaiah 61:10

Jeremiah 15:16

Acts 8:5-8; 16:23-25

1 Peter 1:8

Job 20:5

Proverbs 14:13

Ecclesiastes 2:10

1 Peter 4:12-19

**REFOCUS and RENEW YOU PERSONAL WALK with GOD and FIND HIS PROMISED
JOY!!**

Pastor Gerald L. Durley