

14 Reasons to sing

The Bible is full of commands to sing and we have good reason to! Join us in discovering why Christians sing.

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**BIBLE
SOCIETY**

Live light

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: (NIV)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
1	I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.	Psalm 13:6	<p>This is a beautiful verse. Just reading it lifts my heart. I think, "Yes I <i>will</i> sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me!" This is a beautiful verse, but it is even more beautiful when you understand that wasn't written from a place of happiness but pain. It comes at the end of Psalm 13—the famous 'How long, Lord?' psalm—a psalm of intense suffering and questioning. After expressing his grief and doubt and anguish, the psalmist writes:</p> <p><i>But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me. (Psalm 13:5-6)</i></p> <p>How has God been good to you? How many ways can you list?</p>	<p>Dear Lord, You have been so good to me! My heart rejoices in your salvation. You have loved me unfailingly and showered me in blessings. Thank you! Amen.</p>
2	But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. You are my strength, I sing praise to you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.	Psalm 59:16-17	<p>I love the Olympic games. There is something mesmerising about watching elite athletes use their strength to run fast, swim fast, jump high or lift heavy things. But I've never been enthralled with body building competitions. Body builders are so strong, but what's the point? God is strong. Amazingly strong. But God's strength isn't like the body builder's. God isn't strong for vanity's sake or to prop up his ego. God's strength is coupled with his love and he uses it to protect us. His strength becomes our strength. He is our fortress. The strong place we go to in times of trouble.</p> <p>Do you need a strong safe place to hide from things in your life? Have you thought about going to God?</p>	<p>Dear God, Thank you for Jesus who used his strength to love us, stretching out his mighty arms to save us. Help us to find our refuge in him and in him to become strong. Amen.</p>

14 Reasons to sing (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
3	After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendour of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.”	2 Chronicles 20:21	<p>When King Jehoshaphat faced a battle that he knew he couldn’t win, he recalled the promises that the Lord had made to protect his people and he asked for God’s help. Through the mouth of the prophet, God assured the king that all would be well. God himself—in fulfilment of his covenant promises—would fight for Judah. So Jehoshaphat and his men marched out to battle. And as they marched, appointed men led the army, singing: “<i>Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.</i>” God’s love is not a sentimental Hollywood affection. It is his steadfast commitment to act in line with his promises. In 2 Chronicles 20, it’s a battle cry. Singing about God’s enduring love put courage into the hearts of Jehoshaphat’s men as they walked towards what looked like a hopeless battle.</p> <p>How has God shown his enduring love to you? Does understanding God’s enduring love give you courage?</p>	Thank you, God, for your enduring love for us. Grant that we will find our courage in believing in your promises. Amen.
4	Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne. The nobles of the nations assemble as the people of the God of Abraham, for the kings of the earth belong to God; he is greatly exalted.	Psalms 47:6-9	<p>With the end of Christendom and the growing hostility towards Christianity in the west, we, like the Psalmist can take comfort in the fact that God is king over all of the earth. Our politicians, our media personalities, our lawmakers... they all belong to God. Though it may not seem like it, God reigns over our nation. He is seated on his holy throne. Confident. Capable. He is not threatened by any happenings in our world—and neither should we be.</p> <p>If this is true, how should we respond when we see earthly leaders rule in an ungodly way?</p>	Sovereign Lord, You are king of all nations. Help us to live confidently, secure in your goodness and power. Amen.

14 Reasons to sing (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
5	My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart. God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day.	Psalm 7:10-11	<p>Can you imagine serving a god who wasn't righteous? One who cared little for justice and truth and made no effort to right wrongs? We sing because our God isn't like that. Righteousness is fundamental to his character. Psalm 7 celebrates God's righteousness, but wrapped up inseparably in this is his judgement of the wicked. God is a shield to the upright in heart because he turns his wrath on sinners. God's righteous judgement is a good, but sobering thing. We rejoice in the fact that God will right all wrongs, but do this knowing that but for his grace, we would be counted among the wicked.</p> <p>How do you feel about God's righteous judgement? Is it something that you sing of?</p>	<p>God Most High, Thank you for counting us as righteous, shielding us from your own wrath through your son Jesus Christ. Speed the day when you will bring about justice in our world. Amen.</p>
6	On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.	Psalm 63:6-8	<p>David wrote these verses when he was in the wilderness, pursued by Saul. In his time of fear he sought out God, thought of him, and clung to him. There, "in the shadow of his wings," David found God to be his help—so much so that he was given strength not just to endure, but to rejoice. "Because you are my help, I SING in the shadow of your wings."</p> <p>What does it mean for you to cling to God? How could you position yourself in the shadow of his wings?</p>	<p>Loving Father, By your grace, grant that we may know your presence in times of need. Be our help, our strength and our joy. Amen.</p>

14 Reasons to sing (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
7	May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great. Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.	Psalms 138:5-6	<p>It does us good to occasionally ponder our own insignificance. I am a tiny creature who lives on a tiny planet for a brief flash of time. What do I matter? But to God—eternal, glorious, exalted—I do matter! Though he is far above us, he sees us. He notices us. And in this verse we see that the smaller and the more insignificant we are, the more God notices us. It is his ‘way’ to look kindly on the lowly. This is something to sing of!</p> <p>God has a particular interest in the lowly. Throughout the Bible he is on the side of the poor and the oppressed. Are you?</p>	Exalted Father, lifter of the lowly and defender of the weak, Thank you for your grace to us—the small and underserving. Give us the humility to see people as you see them and love them as you love them in Jesus our Lord. Amen.
8	My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you—I whom you have delivered.	Psalms 71:23	<p>Some verses in the Psalms repay a out loud reading. This is one of them. When I read “I whom you have delivered” I feel the weight of it. The main thing that can be said about me is that I have been delivered by God!</p> <p>How does the Psalmist feel about having been delivered? How do you feel about it?</p>	Thank you, Lord, for bringing us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
9	I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.	Psalms 89:1-2	<p>I’m always struck by how often the word ‘forever’ comes up in love songs. It is the nature of romantic love to commit and make crazy, wild ‘forever’ promises. But after the early infatuation stage has passed, the lovers must demonstrate their love for one another by keeping the promises that they have made. Real love will be expressed in their faithfulness to those promises. In these verses the Psalmist sings of the Lord’s love for his people. Like a spouse’s love, God’s love is evidenced in his faithfulness. He has made a ‘forever’ promise to his people and the Psalmist is sure that he will keep it.</p> <p>In response to God’s faithfulness to his ‘forever’ promises, the Psalmist makes some ‘forever’ promises of his own. What does he promise?</p>	Faithful Lord, How great is your love for us! May we sing forever of your faithfulness to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

14 Reasons to sing (continued)

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10	Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.	Psalms 98:1	<p>One of the unique things about the Christian faith is the active role that God takes in his creation. He doesn't just watch on from afar. He doesn't delegate the unpleasant parts of ruling the world to someone else. He reaches his own arm down, he gets his hands dirty and accomplishes 'marvellous things.'</p> <p>What are the marvellous deeds that God has done? The psalmist considers God's marvellous deeds worthy of a new song. Praise him for them today!</p>	Marvellous Lord, Thank you for reaching your holy arm down into our world and saving us while we were helpless. May we ever praise you. Amen.
11	Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime.	Psalms 30:4-5a	<p>Of all the people on the earth, we in Christ have the privilege of being God's people. We dwell in his favour all the days of our lives—and longer! This is reason to sing!</p> <p>How has God shown his favour to you?</p>	Holy Father, What a wonder it is that we should be your people! Thank you for showering your favour on us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
12	Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge ... May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.	Psalms 119:54, 172	<p>Psalms 119 is the longest of all the psalms and all 176 verses are in praise of God's word. It is sweeter than honey, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It is righteous, delightful, wonderful, consuming, good, trustworthy, comforting, freeing, more precious than gold or silver, and the source of knowledge and wisdom!</p> <p>Do you feel this way about God's word, the Bible?</p>	Dear Lord, Thank you for your word. It contains all that we need to love and serve you in this life and the next. May we love it like this Psalmist does. Amen.

14 Reasons to sing (continued)

Day	Readings	Reference	Reflection/Question	Prayer
13	Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.	Psalm 135:3	<p>What does it mean that God is 'good'? Good is the absence of bad, but it's so much more than that. There's a purity about 'good', a radiance, a rightness. God is good. He is the author of 'good' and its definition. If we want to see what 'good' is, then we should look at him. Look at his character, what he values, how he's acted in his world. The psalmist says "Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good." When we praise God for his goodness, we are doing exactly that for which we were made. We are in harmony with our created purpose and as such, it is 'pleasant'.</p> <p>Do you enjoy praising God for his goodness? Try it now and see if it is indeed pleasant.</p>	Dear God, You are so good. Thank you! Amen.
14	For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.	Psalm 92:4	<p>In the last two weeks we have seen that we have so many reasons to sing: God loves us with a faithful, enduring love, he is our sovereign Lord, our righteous judge, our help, our saviour, our deliverer and the worker of marvellous deeds. This makes us glad! Whatever else is happening in our lives we can experience a genuine, heartfelt joy when we remember the wonderful deeds of our Lord.</p> <p>For you make me glad by your deeds, Lord; I sing for joy at what your hands have done!</p>	Thank you, Lord, for making me glad. You have loved me with an enduring love, you are the sovereign God, the righteous judge, my help, my saviour and my deliver. Thank you for your marvellous deeds in our world and in my life. May I ever sing of you. Amen.