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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Ki Tavo - The Command to Rejoice

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Ki Tavo, which is Hebrew for “When you enter,” and it goes from Deuteronomy 26:1 to Deuteronomy 29:8.

This Torah portion speaks of the first fruits ritual, tithes, and lists the blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about the command to rejoice.

Deuteronomy 26:11

And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord [YHWH] your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

This command is given in the context of giving the first fruits offering from the land. God commands us to “rejoice in all the good” that he gives us.

Being grateful to God for the good he gives us is not an option but a command. We recognize that, ultimately, God is the source of the harvest. He is the one who provides our needs. We are commanded to “rejoice” in response to his provision.

But what if we don’t *feel* like rejoicing? The answer is simple: rejoice anyway!

Don’t be led by your emotions. Instead, let your actions *lead* your emotions!

Think of what you have as a gift from God, because it is. Now, say these words: “Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with all that I have.”

Even if you don't feel grateful, express words of gratitude toward God anyway. It's true that words of gratitude don't always come naturally, but that doesn't change the fact that God is worthy of our thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Also, when you start *acting* grateful for all the good God has given you, in many cases you'll find that you'll start *feeling* grateful as you do it.

As John Piper says:

Your aim in loosing your tongue with words of gratitude is that God would be merciful and fill your words with the emotion of true gratitude.

-John Piper, *When I Don't Desire God: How to Fight for Joy* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), p. 222

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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1) FB banner text (Short sentence or two)

In this week's Parashah Point on the portion Ki Tavo, we look at the command to rejoice for all that the Creator has given us.

2) A short summary of the teaching for the Vimeo description

In this week's Parashah Point on the Torah Portion called Ki Tavo, we read Deuteronomy 26:11 which includes the command to rejoice. Even if we don't always feel like rejoicing, don't feel thankful, or don't feel grateful, we need to rejoice in our Father's provision.

3) Include keywords, longer description, and some key scripture verses

Parashah Points, Ki Tavo, the command to rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, thankful, grateful, God's provision