

# Accepting Delight

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If you've ever seen a wedding, you know the scenario: the bride appears, the first notes of the Bridal Chorus ring out, and every head turns in unison to watch her walk down the aisle towards her groom. Every head except mine. I watch the groom.

I study the delight on his face, the intensity of his love, his penetrating gaze that drinks in her presence, the way every fiber of his being is aware only of her. I long to be looked at this way – and so do you. We yearn for someone to savor us with delight.

Few Christians believe that the Lord savors them with such delight. But He does. Look:

*It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken," ...But you will be called, "My delight is in her," ... For the LORD delights in you...and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, your God will rejoice over you (Isaiah 62:4-5b)*

*Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp." The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. (Zephaniah 3:14-17)*

Throughout the whole Bible all who have joined themselves to the Lord are portrayed as His bride, somehow feminine in their relationship to Him. Men, women, children – all believers – are recipients of His bridegroom delight. God's joy in His people sometimes is portrayed as joy in them as a collective group (Zion, Israel, Jerusalem, the church) but is also applied to each individual believer within that group. (Each "you" in Isaiah is singular, not plural.) It's very personal and meant to be appropriated personally. God rejoices over all-y'all, but He also rejoices over *you*. If you were the only one He saw His eyes would still shine with joy.

## A Few Questions and a Suggestion

- Do you believe God's face lights with delight when His people (His "bride") approach Him?
- Do you believe God's face lights with delight when you approach Him?
- What might make you hesitant to believe God's delight in you?
- Read through Zephaniah 3:14-17 (above) and – if you have welcomed Him as Lord and Savior – welcome Him as your bridegroom. Read the Zephaniah verses out loud, and, as you read, substitute your name for each phrase that refers to God's people: daughter of Zion, Israel, daughter of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Zion. Stay as near as you can to the truth that God has taken away His judgments against you, is quiet in His love, and rejoices over you with shouts of joy. Drink it in. And ask Him to etch these truths deep into your heart.