

Week of April 27

Psalm 118:

God Meets Us in Distress

The writer says, *"In my distress I called to the Lord; He answered me and set me free."*

This is the heartbeat of the psalm:

Not that trouble never comes, but that God never abandons us in it.

The psalmist was surrounded, pressed, and pushed to the brink—yet God became his strength and song. This is the kind of faith that grows only in the valleys, where we learn that God's presence is not fragile.

God Lifts Up What Others Overlook

*"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."*

God has a way of taking what seems small, overlooked, or rejected and turning

it into something foundational. This is true of people who feel unseen.

It's also true of seasons in our lives that feel wasted or broken—God can turn them into cornerstones of strength and compassion.

Joy Is a Choice Rooted in Trust

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

This verse isn't about pretending everything is perfect. It's about choosing joy because God is present in *this* day—not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today.

Rejoicing becomes an act of trust:

"I don't know what this day holds, but I know who holds me."

Reflection:

What is one small way you can practice joy today?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your steadfast love that never fades.

When we feel surrounded, be our strength.

When we feel afraid, remind us that You are with us.

Turn the rejected places in our life into cornerstones of Your grace.

Teach us to rejoice in the day You have made,

and to trust Your goodness in every season.

Amen.