



## A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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## EXUBERANCE

The photo seen below may be a tad bit hard to appreciate, but if witnessed in real time, it would not doubt bring a smile to your face. The picture is that of a bulldog on a hot summer's day frolicking in a yard with a sprinkler. The dog playfully attacks the stream of water as it drenches its face. Jumping as high as it possibly can with its short, stumpy legs the rest of the body gets soaked, but seems as if the dog simply can't get enough of the refreshing water.



*sires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust in Him, and He will do it.*" (Psalms 37:4-5) When was the last time you fully embraced the joy and exuberance of being a child of God? Sometimes we get caught up in not wanting to be overly emotional that we embrace a more stoic type of thinking. As christians we should want to embrace with warmth a reliance on God. He is our loving, caring Father.

In Paul's epistle to the brethren in Ephesus, in the third chapter expresses his desires for them. Beginning in verse fourteen through the end of the chapter he speaks openly of how they should be filled with God's love. Notice especially verses eighteen and nineteen, *"may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God."* Think back now to the bulldog and the sprinkler. That dog simply couldn't get enough of the refreshing water that was washing over him.

The invitation is ever present that God wants us to have that level of exuberance in a spiritual sense. Oh, not that we're going to be out "running through the sprinklers" but coming to an awareness of how blessed we truly are as His children. *"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."* (Ephesians 3:20-21)

*"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to Thee; And my soul, which Thou hast redeemed."* (Psalms 71:23) (wbe)

Exuberance on full display is perhaps the best word to describe the scene laid out above. As you no doubt know, exuberance is the "quality of being filled with energetic, joyful enthusiasm; a lively, animated, and cheerful behavior." Thinking back on the times when I seen such on display it couldn't help but trigger my mind to passages in the Scriptures which celebrate spiritual exuberance. A classic example is seen in the 84th psalm with the expression of a longing to drink in the splendor of all that God affords. Notice verse two of that psalms, *"My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God."* Spiritual exuberance.

*"For Thou, O Lord, hast made me glad by what Thou hast done. I will sing for joy at the works of Thy hands."* (Psalms 92:4) On full display in the 92nd psalm is the true joy and security which are found in lifting up praise to the God of Heaven. The righteous flourish and bask in a relationship with Him. Note how the words of David mirror this sentiment as seen in the 16th psalms, and verse eleven. *"Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is the fulness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever."*

In yet another of David's psalms he once again talks about what a delight it is to be secure and trust fully in God. *"Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the de-*

THE BULWARK

