

“Light shines on the godly, and joy on those whose hearts are right.” Psalms 97:11 NLT

lectio // Psalm 97

In this entire chapter, the Psalmist focuses on the brilliant and fierce nature of God and his placement above all other false gods. But near the end of this passage, there is this little, beautiful encouragement, a reminder of hope for those who know God. Light and Joy. My favorite day of the year is not Christmas, July 4th or my birthday. It's the longest day of sunshine every year - June 21st. I am a summer kid at heart and the bright, sunny early mornings along with the well-into-the-night sunsets are such a delight. I just love sunshine and warm days. I even wrote a little ditty, “energized by the son,” which, when sung, reminds of the sunshine as well as the son-shine in my life. I know long, sun-shiny days don't always bring joy for everyone, but they do for me. And when my heart, mind, and soul are right with God on those kind of days, I breath deeply and feel a rush of contentment and joy that all is right because God is in control and thankfully, I am NOT in control. Today is halfway through October and we're heading into dark mornings and early sunsets - but it is sunny today. God's light and love are shining brightly.

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Dad,

You are light! And, pure joy! I feel it on sunny days (even in October) but I know it is real even in the darkness of winter. I ask that the beautiful light of your justice and the joy of your peace go before me this fall, this winter as I learn to lead at a whole new level and learn with a whole new group of people.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root