

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Connection

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Connection is the act of being joined to something else. We go to the park to connect with creation. This park has no play structures or sport fields, nowhere to fish or camp. There are only woods with some walking trails and a babbling brook. What draws people to come here? Connection. It is a place to connect with beauty, to connect with peace, to connect with your inner self to sort out your thoughts and feelings, to connect with the Creator – with God Himself. When you come to a park like this it is with the purpose of joining with who God created you to be. This is a place of quiet intimacy where you can connect or join with the breath of God.

In Psalm 42 David writes, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" This place looks like that spot where David wanted to go to connect with the Living God. Later in Psalm 42 David shares, "Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me – a prayer to the God of my life."

David is sharing how he longs to connect with God and then describes what it is like to encounter Him. God is calling him deeper in relationship, deeper in intimacy. As David responds waves of God's presence and glory sweep over him. David is joined to the love God has for him. He is renewed in his heart and in his mind; he is encouraged. David is revived and refilled, strengthened in his inner man. All from connection. The park is a pathway to connecting to the heart of God and His love.

Love means there is no separation between me and God. Paul says it this way, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It's all about connection – being connected to the perfect love of Father God that removes all fear and doubt and shatters the accusations and inadequacies that are inherent in this life.

Psalm 19.7-9 NIV

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,

refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are **trustworthy,**
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right,

giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ **The fear of the LORD is pure,**
enduring forever.

The decrees of the LORD are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

- The evidence of connection.

Psalm 18.30-34 NIV

³⁰ **As for God, his way is perfect:**

The LORD's word is flawless;

he shields all who take refuge in him.

³¹ For who is God besides the LORD?

And who is the Rock except our God?

³² **It is God who arms me with strength
and keeps my way secure.**

³³ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;

he causes me to stand on the heights.

³⁴ **He trains my hands for battle;
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.**

2 Timothy 1.12-14 TPT

¹² The confidence of my calling **enables me to overcome every difficulty** without shame, for **I have an intimate revelation of this God.** And my faith in him convinces me that he is more than able to keep all that I've placed in his hands safe and secure until the fullness of his appearing.

¹³ Allow the **healing words** you've heard from me to live in you and make them a model for life as your faith and love for the Anointed One *grows even more.* ¹⁴ **Guard well this incomparable treasure** by the Spirit of Holiness living within you.

From this place of confidence in God we release this prayer:

Psalm 135.16-19 TPT personalized declaration for Detroit:

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ **Detroit, your possessions will never satisfy.** Lifeless and futile works cannot bring life to the city! **Lifeless things can't talk or answer your prayers. Blind men can only create blind things. Those deaf to God can only make a deaf image. Dead men can only create dead idols.** And everyone who trusts in these powerless, dead things will be just like what they worship—powerless and dead! ¹⁹ **Praise Lord-Yahweh, all the families of Detroit and in Michigan!**

Lord, we declare that the body of Christ in Detroit and in Michigan is rooted in **trusting You in all things.** That a new song is rising up in the heart of Your body. That ecstatic praise is on the lips of Your people declaring Your glory and Your name above this land. We stand in awe of You O Mighty God and the fear of the Lord fills our hearts. We refuse to listen to the lies of the proud and haughty. We do not put our confidence in mere men. **Detroit and Michigan belong to the Lord!** Lord, You are the hope and the salvation of this nation. You have spoken words of promise over our land.

To Detroit and to Michigan and to our nation we say, "Trust in the Lord. He is your shield and deliverer. Be filled with the sound of heaven and let that sound of truth resound through your streets. Let the peoples be glad and rejoice."

"Let Detroit bow in humility before the Lord who is Detroit's Maker. We speak peace in the streets. We close the door to violence and anarchy in the streets. Detroit, you are a city of beginnings and a city of influence. Release your influence to the nations, demonstrating your trust and receptivity of God and His kingdom in your midst." Let the nations see the hand of God upon Detroit. Arise, shine Detroit and let the glory of the Lord be demonstrated through you.