

## Let The Nations Be Glad

Another Great Awakening is taking place in our world today. More people are becoming Christians than at any other time in history. God's Spirit is sweeping across the nations of China, South Korea, Australia, Central and South America, Cuba, and parts of Africa drawing more than 82,000 people every day according to recent surveys. However, only 3 to 4% of these daily conversions are occurring in North America

How can our nation become part of this Great Awakening and experience God's blessings? Let's look at **Psalm 67** for some answers from God's Word. Although we don't know who wrote this psalm, we do know that he wanted God to bless his nation and he wanted to be a blessing to others.

***May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah 2 that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.***

Notice that the first thing the psalmist does is go to the Lord in prayer. He begins with a cry for God's forgiving grace. This is the first step in receiving His blessing. God forgives, then God gives. Then the psalmist asks for God to bless them and give them a realization of His favor and approval. Finally, he asks that God's ways may be known and His saving power experienced by all the other nations of the world. That's a great prayer for us to ask of God.

The Lord has blessed us so that we will be a blessing to others. He answers our prayers so that we might become the answer to someone else's prayer. If we are not sharing the "Good News" of God's saving power with others, our spiritual life may end up resembling the Dead Sea, a holding pond with no new life or blessing. This certainly is not God's plan for His people! He wants us to be a channel of His blessings and share them with others.

The psalmist has a passion to know Him and make Him known. God's will must be known on earth if it is to be done on earth. If people do not know the Lord's will, how will they ever follow it? In His Word, God revealed His will by extending His grace to unbelievers. He also demonstrated His method through the life of His Son. The way He communicates His will, in addition to studying His Word, is through His people as they share His way with the nations (Matthew 28:19-20; John 14:6).

God chose and blessed Abraham so that he might be a blessing in reaching a lost world with the saving message of His Name (Genesis 12:1-3). Later, He took on flesh and blood and became a man in the person of Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to the point of death (Philippians 2:8) in order that the "Good News" of salvation might go out to all the nations.

First, God's grace draws us to Himself; then we gain knowledge of Him as we spend time in His Word; then He gives us the desire to see others experience His saving power; and the result of this process is praise. We cannot see God without His grace and we cannot praise God without knowing Him.

<sup>3</sup> *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!* <sup>4</sup> *Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah* <sup>5</sup> *Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

## Devotional for February 2013

When believers share God's love and the way of salvation with others, praise results. However, nations will never be glad and sing for joy until they come into a personal relationship with the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ (John 10:11; 1 Peter 2:25; Rev 7:17). Then and only then will they be glad and sing songs of praise and joy.

<sup>6</sup> *The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.* <sup>7</sup> *God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!* The prayer of the first verse is the song of the last verse. He blesses and blesses and blesses! As we humble ourselves and pray, trust Him and obey Him by sharing His saving power with others, He will meet our needs and cause a Great Awakening to sweep across our nation (John 4:34-35).

One day all the nations of the world will fall down and worship the King of Kings (Isaiah 45: 20-24; Philippians 2:9-11). However, the worldwide worship of God will not become a reality until the "Good News" of Jesus Christ is shared both here in the United States and in the nations of the world.

***Ask God how he might want to use you to bless others and see our nation be blessed by Him (Psalm 33:12).***