

Hungry for God (from Our Daily Bread)

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight. -Jeremiah 15:16

Today's Scripture & Insight

Jeremiah 15:15-21 (NLT)

15Then I said, "Lord, you know what's happening to me. Please step in and help me. Punish my persecutors! Please give me time; don't let me die young. It's for your sake that I am suffering. 16When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God of Heaven's Armies. 17I never joined the people in their merry feasts. I sat alone because your hand was on me. I was filled with indignation at their sins. 18Why then does my suffering continue? Why is my wound so incurable? Your help seems as uncertain as a seasonal brook, like a spring that has gone dry." 19This is how the Lord respond: "If you return to me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve me. If you speak good words rather than worthless ones, you will be my spokesman. You must influence them; do not let them influence you! 20They will fight against you like an attacking army, but I will make you as secure as a fortified wall of bronze. They will not conquer you, for I am with you to protect and rescue you. I, the Lord, have spoken! 21Yes, I will certainly keep you safe from these wicked men. I will rescue you from their cruel hands."

[ptents.com/s/Jer15.15-21](https://www.ptents.com/s/Jer15.15-21)

The prophet Jeremiah is known as "the weeping prophet." One reason is that he openly weeps over his wayward Jewish brothers and sisters and the discipline their disobedience requires. The word weep appears twelve times in Jeremiah, including 9:1: "Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people." Jeremiah also bears this title due to his book of laments, which we call Lamentations. In the book, Jeremiah uses the word weep three times, including Lamentations 2:11: "My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed."

Reflection

A new believer in Jesus was desperate to read the Bible. However, he'd lost his eyesight and both hands in an explosion. When he heard about a woman who read Braille with her lips, he tried to do the same—only to discover that the nerve endings of his lips had also been destroyed. Later, he was filled with joy when he discovered that he could feel the Braille characters with his tongue! He had found a way to read and enjoy the Scriptures.

Joy and delight were the emotions the prophet Jeremiah experienced when he received God's words. "When your words came, I ate them," he said, "they were my joy and my heart's delight" (Jeremiah 15:16). Unlike the people of Judah who despised His words (8:9), Jeremiah had been obedient and rejoiced in them. His obedience, however, also led to the prophet being rejected by his own people and persecuted unfairly (15:17).

Some of us may have experienced something similar. We once read the Bible with joy, but obedience to God led to suffering and rejection from others. Like Jeremiah, we can bring our confusion to God. He answered Jeremiah by repeating the promise He gave him when He first called him to be a prophet (vv. 19-21; see 1:18-19). God reminded him that He never lets His people down. We can have this same confidence too. He's faithful and will never abandon us.

Reflect & Pray

When have you experienced joy in reading the Scriptures? What can help you regain your hunger and thirst for God?

Faithful God, thank You for speaking to me through the words of the Bible. Help me to seek You earnestly and to obey You faithfully.