



APC Advent Devotional – December 3rd, 2020

Sing, Shout & Rejoice

Today's Scripture: Zephaniah 3:15 (NIV)

*The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.*



Despite having an admission letter, Osi could not afford the fees for a 3-year postgraduate study. He also did not have the best grades, so getting a scholarship was not an option. After he had literally shelved his admission letter and moved on with his life, he got a phone call. Surprisingly, he was offered a scholarship he did not apply for. As he stared at the registration form with the name of the former recipient hastily crossed out with a pen and his name written beneath it, one thing was clear...he really did not deserve this huge blessing. In fact, Osi kept looking over his shoulder the first few months, thinking one day they would realize the mistake and withdraw the scholarship offer. It was difficult for him to accept and enjoy what he did not deserve.

In Zephaniah 3, the Israelites had gone astray, and God's wrath was on the land before He showered his mercy on them. This was totally because of God's love for His children and not by their own efforts or works. What is particularly interesting is how he reminds them to sing, shout and rejoice! This was not just about accepting a gift, but confidently enjoying it even though they might not have deserved it. There is a word for such bold actions; it's called **faith**. Faith that God is not playing games with you. Faith that God **loves** you more than you can ever measure or understand. Faith that when God starts something in your life, He will finish it.

It is such faith that helps us accept the possibility of someone giving up his life and paying all our debts. Basically, taking up all the punishment for our sins. We must no longer come to God with fear, looking over our shoulder, thinking God would see there was a mix up or a mistake and withdraw the **gift** of the Saviour, Jesus Christ from us.

The Lord has taken away our punishment, simply believe and receive his love without looking over your shoulders. Now let us sing shout and rejoice at the gift of Jesus Christ in our lives.

By O.G.A.