

To Boast In The LORD

OUT OF THE WORD

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God is truly doing an exciting work at the First Christian Church of Pinckneyville. With the prayer meetings now the focus on a deeper committed walk with Jesus and seeking the lost has taken on a fresh zeal starting this new year. I am sure other Christians around the community have also used this time to reexamine and evaluate their ministries as well. I am reminded of these new prayer meetings that were having now twice a week and in thinking about them, I can not help but think about a beloved Christian who passed away back in the summer of 2021. This sister was very vocal and had a Spirit of joy. After she was baptized into Christ, every time the church doors were opened you could count on her to help serve and be an encouragement to others. She had lived a past life of troubles and despair but when she came to Jesus Christ, she always proclaimed how King Jesus has taken away her sin! I always enjoyed preaching when she was in the assembly because when everyone else was quiet, she was there saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!" I never got tired of hearing that. I never viewed that as an interruption, but instead, I viewed it as an expression of her heart. I know for a fact when the numbers are low for a prayer meeting, this sister would have been present to go to battle. She didn't have all her doctrine figured out, but she loved to pray and worship King Jesus. What about the Hallelujah in our hearts? It is a word followers of Jesus have used for centuries. We use it when we agree with something we've heard and it's a word we sing in countless worship songs every weekend at churches around the world. Do you know what it means? It's a combination of two Hebrew words that have significant meanings in the Scriptures. The first word is *hallel*, which means praise but means so much more. It means to boast in God. It means to have such deep joy and adoration for God that the ancient Jews used five biblical poems to describe it (Psalms 113-118). The second word for Hallelujah is *jah*, which means "the Lord." So, hallelujah means "*to joyfully, adoringly, and triumphantly praise the LORD.*" Christians have been using this Hebrew word for centuries because it is the only word big enough to capture the essence of how much we should manifest zeal and rejoice in God! Do you think that is missing in our nice little country conservative churches? What if that was placed on the Sunday prayer list? Let us pray this week church for a deeper marvel of hallelujah among those who bear the name of Christ. I know the ways of the universe and I almost bet you don't hear that. How will you hallelujah-boast in and joyfully praise God with everything you have through Christ today?