

How Do We Worship God? (Psalm 100)

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Many women have had the experience of baking a cake or some other favorite dish, but in the process of making the delicacy, they may have forgotten to put one important ingredient in the recipe. Ladies, be honest. It has happened to you! Maybe you have made that cake so many times that you became careless and forgot sugar. How bland would a cake be without sugar! Maybe you forgot to put eggs into the recipe and the end result was a total flop. It's amazing how one missing ingredient can ruin a whole dish or cake. I recall one time when I was extremely hungry. I built up my sandwich with lettuce, onions, and mustard and was eating away, when I suddenly realized I had forgotten the meat, which the most important part. Only a rabbit or vegan would have loved my sandwich.

Well, what is true in the cooking or sandwich world can also be true in our daily lives. If we are missing one ingredient in our lives, then we will discover that our Christian living can become a total flop or failure. The missing ingredient in the lives of many Christians is worship. A lack of true worship causes our Christian lives to become stale and stagnate. A deficiency of Biblical worship in our lives takes us on a journey where there is no real meaning to life. *We become absorbed in the system more than the Savior!* The missing ingredient in the lives of many Christians today is worship. In fact, for many Christians worship is only a word that appears on the front of the church hymnal. They lack a life of worship that is connected and directed to God, a life that brings true fulfillment and meaning to their hearts.

A. W. Tozer called worship “the missing jewel of the church.” In this study, we want to focus on the true nature of worship. What is involved in worship? Psalm 100 gives us the answer. This Psalm is better known as the “Old one hundredth.” It's a Psalm that describes how to worship God by giving us the basic ingredients of worship. As a Christians, we ought to live and breathe worship. Our lives should focus around worshipping God.

Robert Webber said:

“Worship is a verb. It is not something done to us, or for us, but by us.”

We worship God in order to give to Him – not to get from Him!

“O worship the King All glorious above!
Oh gratefully sing His power and His love!
Our shield and Defender, The Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour, And girded with praise.”

God deserves our worship on a daily basis.

True worship has six ingredients

1. Speaking to God (1)

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.” Our words (what we say) should be an expression of our worship to God. The expression “joyful noise” means to literally “shout with joy.” It involves speaking with great joy and lifting our voices to God in worship. It’s speaking to God with a voice of praise!

Psalm 47:1-2, another Millennial Psalm, envisions this time:

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.
For the Lord most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.

The entire earth (“all ye people” – Ps. 47:1 and “all ye lands” – Psalm 100:2) will someday give Jesus Christ praise as He reigns over the earth as Jehovah God. Prophetically, Psalm 100 anticipates the day when all the earth (“all ye lands”) will worship the Lord during the Millennial Kingdom. Many of the Psalms have a prophetic significance and should be seen through the grid of the Millennial Kingdom. There is coming a day when all the earth will bow the knee to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is coming a coronation day when Jesus will be recognized as the King over all the earth. I want to be there when they crown Him King of kings! What a day this will be.

Philippians 2:10-11 speaks of this day:

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Of course, the historical setting of this Psalm is in Jerusalem and the scene is in the temple. It's here where God's ancient people worshipped Him and it's from this same place where the entire millennial earth will one day officially recognize Jesus as the King. This Psalm is actually a call to all the earth to worship Jehovah, who is identified as "LORD" (the eternal God who is all powerful). Actually, Jesus is going to reign over the earth for He is Jehovah and someday all the world will know it!

We should "make a joyful noise" (shout) or speak to God with the voice of praise because of who He is.

In this Psalm we see that He is our:

1. LORD (vv. 1, 2, 3) – the self-existent and eternal existent One!
He will never leave me!
2. God (v. 3a) – Elohim – the strong and faithful One! He's faithful to Me.
3. Creator (v. 3b) – The Creator of everything! He made me!
4. Owner (v. 3c) – We are God's people. He owns me!
5. Shepherd (v. 3d) - Our Shepherd. He cares for me!

Let us worship Him today! Let us fall before Him today! Let us open our hearts and souls to Him afresh and anew. Let us give Him our voice or shout of worship ("joyful noise") for Who He is and what He means to us.

Yes, prophetically this Psalm is a summons to worship God throughout the earth as Jehovah. But it goes beyond the narrow confines of Israel to all the Gentile lands ("all ye lands") throughout the Millennial Kingdom.

Zechariah 14:9

"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."

In the future, we also know that the Beast (Antichrist) will be taken from the earth and cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20), the goats (unsaved Gentiles) will be judged (Matt. 25) and Jesus will reign over all the earth as King. Now this is something to shout about! But there will something else to shout about in the coming Millennial Kingdom. There will be no more Democrats or Republicans trying to run the country and there will be no

more world chaos and disorder. All will be at peace when the King returns to reign.

Christ's earthly reign is something that will result in a "joyful noise" or the expression of joyful shouting and praise to God throughout all the earth for His wonderful provision. The entire earth will speak to God in the voice of praise! Let us not forget about the "joyful noise" or sound (speaking to God with great joy) in our times of worship. We often sing today:

"We have heard the joyful sound
Jesus saves, Jesus saves!
Spread the tiding all around
Jesus saved, Jesus saves."

Salvation should produce a joyful sound among us, as God's redeemed. We have something to shout about! Today we should express a joyful sound (shout) to the Lord when lifting our voices in worship to Him. He has done so much for us! He has saved us, sanctifies us, sustains us, and secures us in His beloved Son. We need to be speaking or shouting forth words of praise! God's people need to be lifting up their voices in worship today to God for His abundant blessings and provisions.

Some of us need to get back to the "joyful noise" (sound) instead of being overcome by the joyless nagging of the world system. The world and our fleshly pursuits rob us of our joy in the Lord (Phil. 4:4). They keep us from days of praise. Do you have the joyful sound? Have you been living your life out in days of praise to the One who created you, died for you, saved you, and wants to shepherd you? Beloved, we have something to shout about! Christ is our Savior, God is our sufficiency, the Lord satisfies our lives, and He is good to us! Let us be thankful today and shout unto God with praise! Let's just praise the Lord!!

Psalm 100:1

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."

Psalm 47:1

"O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."

Will you just come out of your shell a little bit and give praise to God for who He is and what He means to you? Let us open our hearts to Him again. Let His life flow through yours again. This is what we need. Praise needs to recapture our hearts and souls today. The world rules our hearts far too often. Circumstances choke out our praise. It should not be like this! Let's get back to speaking forth God's praise!

Arthur Larson once said:

"If I had a thousand voices I would give them all to Jesus!"

My friend, have you been giving to Jesus the one voice that you have? Are you willing and ready to speak to Him and sing for Him and praise Him? Stop making excuses and start praising the Lord!

"O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!
My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name."

2. Serving with gladness (2a)

The Bible goes on to say, "Serve the Lord with gladness." This is put in the context of worship. All of our service (everything that we do for God) should be an act of worship rendered up to Him. Nothing that we do for God should be devoid of worship. In fact, every time we serve the Lord it should be an act of worship being rendered unto Him. As the Old Testament priests would serve the Lord in the temple, as an act of worship rendered up to God, so we are to serve the Lord as an expression of worship to Him.

1 Peter 2:9 says:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

Daily, as we serve the Lord, we should worship Him, as New Testament priests offering up our acts of service to Him. Serving the Lord is not

drudgery; it's worship! Serving God should be an act of worshipping God. All of our service and separation should be offered up to God as a New Testament priestly offering of worship, since we are pictured today as New Testament priests, coming into the presence of God, and presenting to Him our acts of service and worship (Heb. 13:15-16).

Colossians 3:23-24 states:

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily (out of soul), as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Romans 12:1 says:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Everything we do should in some way be viewed as an act of worship being rendered up to God. Whatever we do for the Lord should be an expression of our gratefulness and thankfulness to Him. This takes drudgery out of service! The text says that we are to “serve the LORD with gladness” (Ps. 100:2) – not serve the Lord with sadness or madness. Don't serve the Lord with an attitude problem. Don't serve the Lord through bribery! We should gladly want serve God out of worship and gratitude of heart. Our service is not done for duty sake alone, but as an act of giving back to God.

People sometimes say, “I'm tired of setting up these chairs. I'm tired of teaching. I'm tired of having to do everything. I'm tired of it all.” That's serving the Lord with sadness – not gladness!

“After all He's done for me
After all He's done for me
Then how can I do less
Then give Him my best
After all He's done for me!”

3. Singing praises (2b)

“Come before his presence with singing.” Our singing is an expression of our worship to God. If we would do more singing we would do less sinning! Singing is a natural part of worship and we would do well to remember this.

Psalm 147:7

“Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God.”

Psalm 69:30

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.”

Singing is to be part of the regular Christian experience. Are you a regular Christian? If you are, you will be a singing Christian! You will have a song of joy in your heart. You may not sing very well, but you will have a singing heart! You will experience the song of the soul set free and possess a song of gratitude and joy in your heart.

Colossians 3:16

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:18-19

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

“I have a song that Jesus gave me,
It was sent from heaven above;
There never was a sweeter melody,
'Tis a melody of love.

In my heart there rings a melody,
There rings a melody with heaven's harmony;
In my heart there rings a melody;
There rings a melody of love!”

Is it true in your life today? Do you have a melody in your heart or have you become moldy in your worship and relationship with the Lord? Do you have a joyful song or are you living life on a sour note? If we don't have a song in our hearts it's because we are not living in light of God's grace and goodness. Instead of being overcome by grace, we are overcome by the

cares of this life and lose our song of gratitude! Do you have a song in your heart today?

Remember:

“You can’t be sour and singing at the same time!”

Is your heart in tune with the Lord? There needs to be a song of gratitude in our hearts today as we live for the Lord. If you lose your song of thanksgiving life becomes drab and dismal. It becomes like a journey in a desert and barren land. Christ is to be our song of songs! God says that we are to be a singing saint expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving up to Him for all that He has done for us. If any person should have a song of gratefulness in his heart it should be a Christian.

Someone wrote:

“I thank thee, God, and like a child
Rejoice as for a Christmas gift,
That I am living-just alive-
Just for this human face I wear,
That I can see the sun, the sea,
The hills and grass and leafy trees,
And walk beneath the host of stars
And watch the lovely moon above.”

The Bible tells us that we should worship Lord as we sing unto Him. Our song should be a song of thanksgiving rendered up to God.

Psalm 40:2-3

“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.”

Worship is expressed by singing. Most believe David wrote this Psalm when he was a special object of King Saul’s hatred. God delivered David from a horrible put in life and he has a song of gratitude and thanks which he was expression to God for His goodness. Have you lost your song? If you have, then examine your life. You are no doubt allowing the cares of this life and carnal expressions of the world to destroy your song of joy.

Psalm 137:4

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?

When we are in the strange land of worldliness we will not and cannot have a song of joy in our hearts. Unless we get the world out of our hearts we will not have a singing heart of praise and worship to God.

Somehow, about forty percent of churchgoers seem to have picked up the idea that "singing in church is for singers." The truth is that "singing is for believers." The relevant question is not, "Do you have a voice?" but "Do you have a song?" A song of joy!

“Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord,
join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne,
and thus surround the throne.

Let those refuse to sing
who never knew our God;
(that is the only people who should refuse to sing!)
but children of the heavenly King,
but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad,
may speak their joys abroad.”

Bill Mann had one of the great singing voices in the Christian church. One day he told a friend about the most special concert in his life. It was after the concert was over and he returned to his dressing room. Waiting for him there was a woman who was blind, deaf, and mute. Through the lady who was with her, she asked if he would sing for her the last song he sang in the concert. "Surely," he said. And standing only five inches from his face-- and placing her fingers on his lips and on his vocal cords, he sang again, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" As he finished singing, a tear trickled down the face of Helen Keller. She said, as the words were repeated by the lady with her, "I was there!"

Do you have a singing heart? If your heart is joyful, it will be filled with singing!

4. Stressing creation (3a)

“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” When we worship the Lord, we will find ourselves stressing to Him how great and wonderful He is as the Creator! And get used to it, we will sing about God’s creation in Heaven in the great heavenly choir!

Revelation 4:10-11

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

The heavenly choir will sing of God’s creative wonders throughout the eternal ages of time!

Observe:

a. The Creator - “know ye that the LORD He is God (3a)

This is something that everybody should know intuitively. There is only one true God Who is above all and Creator of all.

Romans 1:19 speaks to this.

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”

No person is born an atheist. They do know and can know there is only one God who has created everything and everyone.

Everyone knows intuitively “that he is God” (Ps. 100:3). This means there are no other gods outside the true God. God is the only God and there are no other gods beside the one true God who is the Creator of all things.

Isaiah 45:6

“That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.”

So much for pluralism which says there are many gods! There are not many gods with many different faces and represented in many different ways among various cultures. There is only one, true God and He is called Jehovah, the Father, the Great I Am.

b. The created

Psalm 100:3 declares: “it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves.” This could be a statement regarding the nation of Israel. God created the nation of Israel by calling one man Abraham and Israel will once again be the Lord’s blessed people during the Millennial Kingdom. However, it seems better to see this as a reference to physical life in general. We are not self-made individuals. This statement destroys the monkey myth of evolution. Evolution is not science because science must have observable proof and facts, which is something the evolutionists still do not have. All they have are assumptions built on other assumptions. Evolution is nothing more than speculation built upon other speculations. There is not one ounce of truth in it. It’s monkey mythology. “It is he that hath made us.”

This truth destroys:

- Biological evolution – changing of one species into another (monkeys to men or ants to antelopes!)
- Theistic evolution - according to this view, evolution is simply a tool that God used to develop human life
- Macro evolution - large-scale evolution occurring over geologic time.

There is no such thing as a spontaneously generated man. It is God that hath made us – directly, wonderfully, and amazingly!

Psalm 139:14

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

The cover of Discover Magazine, April 2002, said this about the origins of the universe: “The universe burst into NOTHING from absolutely NOTHING – zero, nada. And as it got bigger, it became filled with even more stuff that came from absolutely NOWHERE.”

And the evolutionist thinks that Christians are nuts! I believe in God as the Designer and Creator of everything and nothing makes more sense and causes greater worship in our hearts than to realize that God in His power created everything – including me! Creation is something to sing about. Creation reminds us of God’s power and also His own closeness to our lives. As we are surrounded by His creative acts and design we remember that God as the magnificent and beautiful Creator wants to be part of our lives.

“Heav’n above is softer blue,
Earth around is sweeter green!
Something lives in ev’ry hue
Christ-less eyes have never seen;
Birds with gladder songs o’erflow,
Flowers with deeper beauties shine,
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine.
Since I know, as now I know,
I am His, and He is mine.”

5. Security for His people (3b)

Psalm 100:3 goes on to say that “we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” We also should worship God by expressing to Him our sense of security and His loving faithfulness to us as His people.

God’s people are identified as:

a. Saints

The Bible says, “we are his people.” This will be true of the saved remnant of Jews who enter the earthly theocracy (Millennial Kingdom). They will be the special people of God throughout the earth during the Millennial Kingdom. But in a very practical way, it’s true of every Christian today. This speaks of our security. We will always be God’s people!

Romans 8:38-39

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God's love is endless and we find great security and peace in it. He will not desert His own. Blessed assurance! We are his people! This would also mean that God owns us. Since this is true, we should give Him our lives. We should surrender to His plan and purpose for our lives and commit our days and ways to Him. We are His people! Since this is true, let's act like His people, talk like we are His people, and walk like we are His people. We are His people. God owns us and He should control our lives.

1 Corinthians 6:19

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

God owns us lock, stock, and barrel!

We learn that "the LORD He is God" (Ps. 100:3). This means that He is unapproachably high. But we also read that "we are his people" (3b); and this tells us that He is intimately nigh (near). We are his people and this means that God is near us and with us! He wants to fellowship with our lives. How wonderful to contemplate this today. God is not some kind of far-off and far-out celestial God in the heavens who is not interested in our daily lives. We are His people! In God we find great security and confidence. He is our absolute hope and assurance for today, tomorrow and eternity! Colossians 3:3 reminds us that our "life is hid with Christ in God." Yes, we are His people and we are safe and secure!

"More secure is no one ever
Than the loved ones of the Saviour,
Not yon star on high abiding
Nor the bird in home nest hiding.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His loving arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Tho' He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy."

b. Sheep

We are also termed as the "sheep of his pasture." This lovely expression reminds us that God is our Shepherd that provides all of our needs in life. He takes care of us. He provides for our truest needs in life. So much so, we can say as Psalm 23:1-2 declares: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." I need the "green pastures" of God's provision and "the still waters" of His peace and satisfaction in my heart today. I need His shepherding ministry. In fact, I find myself worshipping the Lord as my Shepherd because I know that He cares about me and is reaching out to me today. God will provide for His children.

Philippians 4:19

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Yes, God is our Shepherd. He provides for us and satisfies us.

"In God's green pastures feeding by His cool waters lie;
Soft in the evening walk my Lord and I,
All the sheep of His pasture
Fare so wondrously fine; His sheep am I."

6. Sounding of thanksgiving (vv. 4-5)

Psalm 100:4-5

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

This Psalm of worship was actually used in the second temple in connection with the sacrifice of thanksgiving. The thanksgiving offering was

the peace offering that was offered in gratitude of special mercies received from the Lord.

Leviticus 7:11-12 reads:

“And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he shall offer unto the Lord. If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried.”

Of course, the mention of gates and courts in its prophetic sense (Psalm 100:4) would indicate that there will once again be temple worship in Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom. In the future this city (Jerusalem) and temple (a rebuilt temple) will be the center of the earth. Isaiah envisioned Jerusalem as the capital of the earth in the future day and how nations will flow to Jerusalem to worship Jesus Christ, as the only King and God, who sits on the throne of David.

Isaiah 66:18

“For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.”

Isaiah 66:23

“And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”

The day is coming! Every knee will bow to Him! What a glorious time it will be! This old earth is going to be transformed and all people will worship Jesus Christ as the only God, King, and Savior! Psalm 100:4-5 is a universal call to worship, a call to praise, and a call to thanksgiving which will go throughout all the earth during the Millennial Kingdom. During the Millennium the pilgrimages to Jerusalem will be joyous for all mankind.

Once again, there is a message in this for us today in that God is calling us to enter the very presence of the Lord God in worship, which results in giving thanks to God. This is God’s personal call to us today! We should be ready to enter into God’s presence in heartfelt worship and thanksgiving because of the blessings He has showered upon our lives and also because of who God is in all of His wonderful glory. Thanksgiving is

another way we express worship to God today. Come ye thankful people come!

I once heard a touching story about a poor woman with two children who had no bed for them to sleep in and scarcely any clothes to cover them. In the depth of winter they were nearly frozen, and the mother took the door of a cellar off the hinges, and set it up before the corner where they crouched to sleep, hoping that some of the draft and cold might be kept from them. When the mother complained one of the little children whispered to her, "Mother, what do those dear little children do who have no cellar door to put up in front of them?" This little heart found cause for thankfulness. In the midst of poverty and coldness there was a spirit of thanksgiving that came from the lips of this little child.

Notice:

a. The joy of thanksgiving (vs. 4)

The words "thanksgiving" and "being thankful" are linked to the words "praise" and "bless his name" (Ps. 100:4) which together form the basis for thankful worship, worship that is rendered up to God from a grateful heart for His many blessings. The "gates" and "courts" have to do with the temple where worship would occur. Redeemed Israel will certainly bring praise to the Lord throughout the thousand years (Rev. 20:1-5) inside the gates and in the courts of the millennial temple.

But what about your life and mine today? Do we find time to praise and thank God many times throughout the day? Is praise to God overflowing in our hearts? We are called upon to enter into his courts with praise!

Someone said:

"Music should lead us to the window of Heaven and let us gaze within."

Psalm 103:1-3

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

Praise and thanksgiving is to be an integral part of our daily lives! Living the Christian life should be likened to “days of praise” since praise is to be a natural response to God as we daily live out our lives. We praise or give thanks to God for His goodness, His multitudes of blessings, for His supply, strength, grace, peace, joy, greatness, glory, and awesome greatness.

Joseph Addison said:
“When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.”

Worshipful praise and thanksgiving causes us to leave this old world behind so that we can enter another world. It's not a world of make-believe but a world of wonder, praise, fellowship, and thanksgiving that is rendered up to God. Yes, we are to “enter his courts with praise.”

Today we need to worship God on a daily basis but also when we come inside the doors of God's House of worship. Someone once told me that he attended the services of one particular church and he had never witnessed a place that was so dead. He called it the “First Church of the Deep Freeze pastored by Jack Frost!” Do you know what the problem was? People were not coming to church with praise and thanksgiving in their hearts. They did not come to the service with thankfulness in their hearts to God. They did not enter His gates with thanksgiving! When we come to church, with our heart open to God, we will be ready to give thanksgiving back to Him! You make church what you want it to be!

b. The reason for thanksgiving (vs. 5)

There are three reasons to give thanks.

1. God's goodness (5a)

“For the LORD is good.” This sums up God's character and contains many reasons for praise. God's goodness is a cause for rejoicing or the giving of thanks. God is not an evil tyrant trying to withhold good things from our lives.

Psalm 84:11 declares:

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

Satan tries to tempt us in this area. He wants us to doubt God’s goodness.

Genesis 3:1

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”

Satan wants us to doubt God’s goodness for he knows this keeps us from rejoicing, thanksgiving, and praise. Beloved, the LORD is good. I wonder if we sit down sometimes and contemplate just how good the Lord really is! We have what we have because the Lord is good! God is good to us every day of our lives as He provides us with food, eyesight, hearing, health, strength, grace, peace, joy, salvation, eternal life and every breath that we have!

Psalm 86:5

“For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

Psalm 107:1

“O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Psalm 107:8

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

Psalm 107:9

“For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”

Psalm 107:15

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

Psalm 107:21

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

Psalm 107:31

“Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

The psalmist repeatedly urged the people to thank God for His goodness which is expressed in so many ways – His love, bountiful provision, unfailing love, satisfaction, healing, and wonderful care in meeting our needs. In short, we should give thanks to God for everything that we have – from the water we drink, to the food we eat, to the job we have, to the family He has given to us, to His protection, care and keeping. Oh how we need to praise the Lord and give thanks to Him for His acts of goodness! Come ye thankful people come! God is good!

Many years ago I attended a church service In Michigan. Following a youth activity all the older teen girls were showing how well they could play the piano. They were playing different songs and everyone was having a good time. After everyone was finished a little girl took her two fingers and began to play these words, “God is so good.” Everyone was silenced by the simplicity of playing and could not help but think how good God was!

2. God’s mercy (5b)

The Psalm goes on to say: “his mercy is everlasting.” God’s mercy is a cause for rejoicing or the giving of thanks. It is “everlasting” which means that it will never end in relationship to this life and the life to come! We will always have a constant supply of God’s mercy for today and God’s mercy will live on in our hearts and lives throughout eternity. Of course, God’s mercy will be experienced by the saved Jewish remnant during the coming Millennium but it’s also true in relationship to our own lives today!

God’s mercy refers to His loving sympathy, compassion, pity, and care which He showers upon our daily lives.

2 Corinthians 1:3

“Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.”

Charles Spurgeon once said:

“So long as we are receivers of mercy we must be givers of thanks. Mercy permits us to enter his gates; let us praise that mercy.”

God is not merely full of justice and sternness. He expresses mercy or compassion (sympathy and deep concern), which He lavishes upon His people, as He provides them with strength, love, companionship, and provision of their daily needs. He pours His mercy upon our lives.

Psalm 69:16

“Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness *is* good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.”

“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.
With my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever!”

Dear friend, I am thankful for His mercy and pity which He showers upon my life. I need His mercy operating in my life daily. I need His pity and loving compassion. I am a Christian that needs God’s intervening touch in my life and so are you! We need God’s mercies and acts of loving kindness everyday. And when we see these acts of mercy in a new perspective, we will say, “Thank you Lord for your mercy! Thank you God for expressing Your sympathy and mercy to me in meeting my needs, rescuing me from danger, and providing strength for today and bright hope for the future.”

Someone said this about God’s mercy and loving compassion:

“The God of all mercy doesn't always smooth the path, but sometimes he puts springs in the wagon.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 declares:

“It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*”

Every day we experience God’s mercies! They are new every morning! They are staring at us in the face! God showers upon our lives health, strength, life itself, protection, love, goodness, and assistance for daily living. He provides for us what we need, when we need it, and all we will ever need. His mercies abound and are overflowing in our lives. We need

His merciful touch today and we should give Him praise for his mercies which He showers upon our lives.

Psalm 106:1

“Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.”

A widely respected man known as "Uncle Johnson" died in Michigan at the incredible age of 120. Perhaps his advanced years could be credited in part to the cheerful outlook that characterized his life. One day while at work in his garden, he was singing songs of praise to God. His pastor, who was passing by, looked over the fence and called, "Uncle Johnson, you seem very happy today." "Yes, I was just thinking," said the old man. "Thinking about what?" questioned his pastor. "Oh, I was just thinking that if the crumbs of joy that fall from the Master's table in this world are so good, what will the great loaf in glory be like! I tell you, sir, there will be enough for everyone and some to spare up there."

3. God's truth (5c)

The Psalm ends with these words: “and his truth endureth to all generations.” God's truth is also a cause for rejoicing or giving of thanks. The Hebrew word for “truth” actually speaks of God's faithfulness or steadfastness in relationship to what He says and has promised. Many times it is simply translated “faithfulness” in the Hebrew Old Testament. God is faithful! He is faithful to His Word – what He says. Our heart leaps for joy as we bow before the One who has never broken His Word or changed his purpose. God is faithful! His truth still goes marching on!

We know that God will be faithful to Israel and give to her the promised covenant blessings – Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, and New covenants.

Romans 11:26-29

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

God is faithful to His promises and Word as it relates to Israel! But God is also faithful to us today – the Bride of Christ (Church).

1 Corinthians 1:9 says, “God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” Think of how faithful God has been to you over the years. He has never abandoned you nor forsaken you, as His word says (Heb. 13:5). He has always been there through the years to give you the wisdom, strength, and the peace that you need to deal with life in the pressure cooker. He has always been there to give you comfort and help when life became unbearable. He was there all the time!

1 John 1:9 gives us this promise:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

God is faithful to His Word, His Son’s blood, and He is also faithful to you. He will forgive you, sustain you, help you, and never leave you, if you are one of His children. God is faithful because He will never go back on His promises.

The Old Scottish Psalter says:

“Oh, enter then His gates with praise
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.”

Yes, “his truth endureth to all generations” (Ps. 100:5). This means that God will keep His Word and be sure to pass on His faithful promises to His own people down through the centuries. This also means that God’s saints can continue to claim His promises them until He takes them home. This is a cause for rejoicing or thanksgiving. We worship God through thanksgiving and rejoicing! Thanksgiving is to be part of our worship experience with God. This is how we worship God! In fact, you can’t worship God without being thankful to Him!

We need to possess an attitude of gratitude! My friend, all of our worship is to be centered on giving thanksgiving to the Lord for His abundant pardon and blessings. A worshipping heart is a thankful heart. There can be no real worship without thanksgiving. We worship the Lord when we express gratitude or thanksgiving to God for His abundant blessings and provisions (salvation, security, supply, sustaining power, sure promises from His Word). Give thanks with a grateful heart!

Hebrews 13:15 gives this wonderful invitation:

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

What an invitation! This is God’s invitation to our personal lives today as Christians. Have we been entering God’s presence regularly, with an open heart, to worship and meditate upon the One who has created us, saved us, and blessed us in so many ways? Are we entering His presence with a grateful heart, a thankful heart?

How do we worship God? Psalm 100 gives us the answer. It involves:

1. Speaking to God (1)
2. Serving with gladness (2a)
3. Singing praises (2b)
4. Stressing creation (3a)
5. Security for His people (3b)
6. Sounding of thanksgiving (vv. 4-5)

A. W. Tozer once said:

“God is trying to call us back to that which He has created us, to worship and enjoy Him forever!”

In the words of William Bright:

“And now the wants are told,
That brought Thy children to thy knee;
Here, lingering still, we ask for naught
But simply worship thee.”