

Praying The Song of Gladness

Psalm 100



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively **Psalms 100:1-5** A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. **(2) Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.** **(3) Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.** **(4) Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.** **(5) For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

There's a song that was written years ago by the **Imperials**, which said:

**When you're up against a struggle
That shatters all your dreams
And your hope has been cruelly crushed
By Satan's manifesting scheme
And you feel the urge within you
To submit to earthly fears
Don't let the faith you're standing in, seem to
disappear**

**Praise the Lord
He can work with those who praise Him ,
Praise the Lord
For our God inhabits praise,
Praise the Lord
For the chains that seem to bind you
Serve only to remind you that they drop powerless
behind you
When you praise him**

**Now Satan is a liar
And he wants to make us think
That we are paupers
When he knows himself
We're children of the King
So lift up the might shield of faith
For the battle has been won
We know that Jesus Christ has risen
So the work's already done¹**

How rarely do we just **praise our Lord**. Praise is not something that occurs mechanically - God doesn't want the words without the heart. He wants us to *praise Him from our hearts*. We can say the words, sing the songs, yet the Scripture warns us:

**Psalms 44:21 Shall not God search this out?
for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.**

God knows whether we are lovingly worshiping Him, or if we are merely mouthing words without meaning.

**1. God Requires That Those He Saved
Worship Him From A Pure Heart**

FOCAL Psalms 100:1 ... **Make a joyful noise
unto the LORD**, all ye lands.

Who can truly **make a joyful noise to the Lord** but

¹ © Imperials' album HEED THE CALL released on Dayspring (Word) 1979
Words and Music by Brown Bannister and Mike Hudson

those Whom He has saved? The people of America should declare *every single day to be Thanksgiving*, and yet there are few happy faces anywhere. Even in the Churches it seems as if *sourness* reigns. Why is this? Are we mad because we are paying a lot of money for gasoline? Praise God that you can buy gasoline! There are nations - and I know this first hand - that have been paying \$6.00 per gallon *and higher* since 1988. Yes, gasoline is expensive. But praise God that we have the money for it. Health care is outrageous, certainly, but there are countries in this world where there are *absolutely no* hospitals nearby whether you need them or not. America has been blessed by God, and is being blessed still. **C.H. Spurgeon** said²:

"Our happy God should be worshiped by a happy people; a cheerful spirit is in keeping with his nature, his acts, and the gratitude which we should cherish for his mercies in every land Jehovah's goodness is seen, therefore in every land should he be praised. Never will the world be in its proper condition till with one unanimous shout it adores the only God."

FOCAL Psalms 100:1 ... **Make a joyful noise³
unto the LORD**, all ye lands.

The word rendered **joyful noise** is a Hebrew word

² in *A Treasury of David* on Psalm 100 vs 1

³ Hiphil Imperative of H7321, רוּעַ, rûa', 'roo-ah', A primitive root; to *mar* (especially by breaking); figuratively to *split* the ears (with sound), that is, *shout* (for alarm or joy): - blow an alarm, cry (alarm, aloud, out), destroy, make a joyful noise, smart, shout (for joy), sound an alarm, triumph.

that means *to sound an alarm or a trumpet, a call to worship*. This command, **make a joyful noise unto the Lord**, is found 7 times in the Psalms:

Psalms 66:1 ... Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

Psalms 81:1 Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.

Psalms 95:1 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Psalms 95:2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

Psalms 98:4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalms 98:6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

When a nation worships the Lord and praises Him, that nation becomes great. The person, the Christian who

worships the Lord, will become great. God does not want our ritualistic worship. He knows your hearts. He wants your *exuberant love*, to praise Him to the best of your ability. Why should we praise God? Because we were **lost, undone, unlovable, and He called us to salvation**. We did not deserve this salvation that we stand in, no more than Israel deserved to be His Chosen. When God called Israel to be His own He said:

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. (7) The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (8) But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Israel was chosen because God is faithful. He promised to make a mighty nation out of Abraham's seed, and what He said He did. What of the Christian? Are we better than others? Is this the reason that God called us to salvation? What does the Scripture say?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: (27) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (28) And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: (29) That no flesh should glory in his presence. (30) But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: (31) That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

God loved us, and called us to salvation, not because we are better than anyone else, but because we were the lesser, the baser, the despised, the weak, the foolish, the things which were not.

He called us to salvation, saved us with His Holy Power, caused us to be *born again* as Kings and Priests unto the Almighty.

We have reason to praise Him, to glorify Him.

Prayer

Precious Father, we come to You in the name of Jesus to praise You, to love You, to offer our hearts anew to You. We pray, O Lord, with the Psalmist, that You "create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me"⁴. We are unworthy of Your Grace, yet You offered Yourself on Calvary for creatures like us. O God, we are the least in the reckoning of the children of men, but You have made us the most in the Kingdom of God. Christ Jesus made Himself "a little lower than the angels"⁵ for the suffering of death", tasting death for me. Because of Your sacrifice we shall *never* taste of the horrors of that Second Death, that Eternal Hellfire spoken of in Your Holy Word⁶. Into this terrible fire will go all unbelievers, but not us, for we have called upon the Name of Jesus and believed on Him - and we are saved.

We praise You, O Lord, for Your faithfulness⁷ to us. We often fail to obey, but You are faithful to Your Promise. Forgive us our failures, O Lord, and glorify Your Name in us. Look into our hearts, dear Lord. If there be any unconfessed sin, highlight it, convict us, and we confess it now. We do not wish to bring shame to You in any way. We love You, dear Lord, and praise You that You love us still. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

4 Psalms 51:10

5 Hebrews 2:9

6 Revelation 21:7-8

7 1 Corinthians 1:9

2. God Requires That Those He Saved Serve Him With A Joyful *and Knowing* Heart

FOCAL Psalms 100:2 **Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.**

John Newton said:

“If two angels were to receive at the same moment a commission from God, one to go down and rule earth’s grandest empire, the other to go and sweep the streets of its meanest village, it would be a matter of entire indifference to each which service fell to his lot, the post of ruler or the post of scavenger; for the joy of the angels lies only in obedience to God’s will, and with equal joy they would lift a Lazarus in his rags to Abraham’s bosom, or be a chariot of fire to carry an Elijah home.”

God wants His people to serve Him with **gladness**, not with murmuring or bitter complaining.

Murmuring is the first mark of the unsaved heart, the mark of the *carnal* heart. God executes judgment on those who murmur, who complain, who refuse to be thankful unto Him.

Jude 1:14-16 ... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, (15) To

execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. (16) These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage.

The Christian should not be a murmurer, but a *praiser of God*. He has saved us, loved us when we were unlovable, and has

Ephesians 2:6-9 ... raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (7) That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

We serve the Lord with gladness and come into His presence with singing because we belong to Him. The Psalmist says:

FOCAL Psalms 100:3 **Know⁸ ye that the**

8 Qal Imperative of H3045, יָדָע, *yâda’*, *yaw-dah’*, A primitive root; to know (properly to ascertain by seeing); used in a great variety of

LORD⁹ he is God¹⁰: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Know that the LORD He is God. This is a profound statement. Anytime you see the word LORD - entirely capitalized - in the King James Version, this is always the Eternal and Most Holy Name of God. **YAHWEH, the Unchanging and Eternal God it is He Who is the Most High God.** Are you in trials? Are you in tribulation? Do you not know that You are **His people and the sheep of His pasture**? The Great Shepherd is your Great God. He watches over you, He knows your needs and your afflictions. The **Eternal God** knows what you are going through, and allows you to go through it. Why does He do this if He loves us? There is an old saying, "No pain, no gain", but another way of

senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially (including *observation, care, recognition*; and causatively *instruction, designation, punishment, etc.*): - acknowledge, acquaintance (-ted with), advise, answer, appoint, assuredly, be aware, [un-] awares, can [-not], certainly, for a certainty, comprehend, consider, X could they, cunning, declare, be diligent, (can, cause to) discern, discover, endued with, familiar friend, famous, feel, can have, be [ig-] norant, instruct, kinsfolk, kinsman, (cause to, let, make) know, (come to give, have, take) knowledge, have [knowledge], (be, make, make to be, make self) known, + be learned, + lie by man, mark, perceive, privy to, X prognosticator, regard, have respect, skillful, shew, can (man of) skill, be sure, of a surety, teach, (can) tell, understand, have [understanding], X will be, wist, wit, wot.

9 H3068, יהוה, *y'hôvâh, yeh-ho-vaw'*, From H1961; (the) *self Existent* or eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God: - Jehovah, the Lord. Compare H3050, H3069.

10 H430, אלהים, *'êlôhîym, el-o-heem'*, Plural of H433; *gods* in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme *God*; occasionally applied by way of deference to *magistrates*; and sometimes as a superlative: - angels, X exceeding, God (gods) (-dess, -ly), X (very) great, judges, X mighty.

saying this is

"Tribulation and trial is God's way of equipping you to do His will and to do a greater future work".

God is in control. The *fatalist* teaches that things just happen mechanically, that good and evil falls on each person without respect of person. Christianity is not fatalism. We believe ourselves to be overseen by a Great, Loving and Unchanging Shepherd, a Father Who loves us so very much. He is in control of what happens to His sheep, not Satan nor some freak of nature. God is in control.

ILLUSTRATE Have you ever heard the story of **Fanny Crosby**? The following is quoted from *In Touch Ministries*:¹¹

"Throughout her long career, she wrote more than 8,500 gospel songs and hymns, many of which are still popular today. "To God Be The Glory," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "Tell Me The Story Of Jesus," "I Am Thine O Lord"— every song is a testimony of her love for Jesus Christ. However, this gifted poet, who described her salvation experience as a "flood tide of celestial light," could not actually see light. In May of 1820, when she was six weeks old, she caught a cold, and her eyes became slightly inflamed. The regular physician in Putnam County, New York, was out of town, and a man posing as a doctor gave her the

11 http://www.intouch.org/myintouch/mighty/portraits/fanny_crosby_213693.html

wrong treatment. Within days, her eyesight was destroyed, and the man fled town in a panic. Fanny was never bitter about the stranger's intervention. "I have not for a moment in more than eighty-five years felt a spark of resentment against him, because I have always believed...that the good Lord...by this means consecrated me to the work that I am still permitted to do."

Do you know that the LORD He is Almighty God? Fanny Crosby could have grown up, allowed bitterness to consume her, hating the stranger for what he did to her. Instead she focused on God. If God wanted her to be this way, she reasoned, then **the LORD is Almighty God**. Wasn't she **His people, the sheep of His pasture**? If He put her in this situation, then she had an obligation to live for Him.

Though Fanny Crosby *never saw light again* she saw the *Light that is Christ* clearer than most of us with sighted eyes.

Many times when we suffer, we ask God "Why me?" The better question to ask would be "Why not me?" Gold has no value unless tried in the furnace, steel cannot hold the edge necessary to make it into a fine sword unless it is tempered in the fire. If we are His Sheep, if we are

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

We must come to the realization that we are not the slaves of men, nor are we the slaves of *our circumstances*.

We belong to God. Praise Him, love Him, pray to Him, seek His face. Before Fanny Crosby wrote a song she gave this as the *secret of her success*:

"It may seem a little old-fashioned, always to begin one's work with prayer, but I never undertake a hymn without first asking the good Lord to be my inspiration." ¹²

She did not focus on her perceived *limitations*, but focused on God. She did not focus on what she *could not do*, but focused on *God working through her*.

Could you begin to understand that, **as His sheep**, He watches over you? **Serve Him with gladness**, for He loves you still!

The Bible commands us:

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto

men;

It helps my own perspective when I try and remember that I am doing what I am doing, not for man, but for God.

FOCAL Psalms 100:3 **Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

If I am His sheep, and this is the pasture He has placed me in, and He loves me, and He is God, then I must trust Him. I must strive to do what He has told me to do whether anyone else agree or not. It is He that I serve, and He will reward me in due season.

Prayer

Precious Father, we pray that You would touch our hearts with the sure knowledge that **You are Eternal and Almighty God**. We are Yours. We do not belong to circumstance, to happenstance, nor to chance. We belong to You. Lord, we cry out in the midst of our trials because we do not understand. We are "sheep", we know nothing but You. Calm our hearts, dear LORD. Give us an understanding of Your will in our suffering. Reveal to us the gifts and calling that You would have us follow. Precious Savior, help us to focus on You and not on the trial at hand. What are You revealing by our present trials? Are You drawing us closer to Christ, to be more like Him? If so,

Precious Lord, take all murmuring from our mouths as unfitting for a child of the King. Our Lord never murmured, and neither should we. As we hear the charging hooves of the armies of Egypt pursuing us, let us not turn to look at the enemy, but let us turn to look upon You. Reveal Yourself to us, O Lord, and reveal Your will for our lives. In Jesus name we humbly ask this. Amen.

3. God Inhabits The Praises Of His People

FOCAL Psalms 100:4-5 **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.** (5) **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

Our text directs us to **enter into His gates** – the **gate** was the place where business was done in the ancient world. Men often sat at the gate of the city. Politicians inhabited the gate. Prosperity was at the gate. We who belong to God are **His city, His sheep, His people**. He rules over our affairs each and every day.

He Who sits in the gate of life, governing all things, is our Heavenly Father, our Eternal Kinsman, our Savior, our Almighty. This is why we praise Him no matter what might come!

Since God is our Kinsman, since we have been *born again into the Family of God*, we can enter **into His courts**.

Prayer

Precious Father, we praise You for Your love, we thank You for the salvation we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. We know that this life is but a vapor, and that trials, though they may come, will also go. We praise You for Your love.

“Our Father, we would not crouch before You like slaves before a tyrant, but we come before You as Sons by faith in Christ Jesus. Help us to come in the spirit into that inner place, into which the High Priest of Israel dared not come but once a year, and then not without blood. We praise You that the veil is rent; and now every believer is made a priest fit to come into the Holy of Holies – not by our cleanliness, but with the Precious Blood of Christ. We know, O Almighty and Eternal Father, that we stand in Your immediate presence. We rejoice that You who search the heart knows our heart better than we do, knows our every need better than we do. If our lips fail us, hear our hearts. Pray for us, Precious Spirit. Intercede for us, Holy Savior. We pray to no saint nor sinner, but to You as Your own dear children. Heal us, O Lord, and glorify Yourself through our lives. Consecrate us, dedicate us, make us into what You would. We cry for mercy that we might learn to better be like the sons of God in our actions. Let us be like Jesus, for

Your sake, putting away all doubt and fear, trusting You. We love You, O Lord, and praise You that You are forever faithful.

Lord, we lift up our loved ones who suffer this night. We pray, O Lord, that You will ease their pain. We pray for those loved ones in the grip of sin's corruption, and pray that they repent and turn to You while there is yet time. We pray for the lost, and pray that we, O Lord, will do as You have commanded and “go into the world, preaching Your Gospel”. We pray, O savior, that You will continue to use this Church to reach others for Your glory and for their sake. Forgive us for where we have failed You, and encourage us where our hearts have honestly sought Your Will. We love You, and praise You. In Christ's Name we humbly pray. Amen