

Psalm 100:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 3 Know that the LORD, He is God; *It is He who* has 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 to Him, *and* bless His name. 5 For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, *And* His truth *endures* to all generations.

Psalm 100 gives us a blueprint for worship

- There are 8 steps that we are to take and 1 reasons we are to take them
- So let's look at the 8 steps

The first step is we are to make a joyful SHOUT to the LORD

- It's the Hebrew word "RUA"
- It's used 42 times throughout the Hebrew Scriptures and it means to make a loud sound with your voice or with an instrument... particularly a "shofar"
- This word was used to describe the excitement of the people when the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the camp in 1 Samuel 4
- It's used to described the shout of victory over an enemy in Zephaniah 3
- But the most common use is to signal war as a battle cry in Joshua 6
- And thus it points out the fact that the Call To Worship is a Call To Battle
- Every time you worship the Lord, you are engaged in spiritual warfare
- That's the first step we are to take as we enter into worship is to respond to the Call To Battle

The second step is to serve the Lord with gladness

- Everything we do for the Lord is an act of worship
- We worship the Lord when we serve in children's ministry, when we usher, when we lead in worship, when we teach, when we handle the administration... it is all worship to God
- Thus as we serve we are to serve with gladness... with a feeling of great joy and pleasure
- It's not a drag to serve the Lord

The third step is what we just did... to come before His Presence with singing

- Literally it means to enter into His Presence
- We know that God is present where 2 or more are gathered in His name
- But this word carries with it the anticipation of engagement

- It's one thing to be in the same room with someone, it's another thing to walk over and talk to the person and engage that person in conversation
- The way we do that with God is through singing... not just any kind of singing
- The Hebrew specifically says... joyful singing... not introspective singing
- But we engage with God's presence through joyful song

The fourth step is to Know that the Lord is God

- To know here in the Hebrew means to acknowledge or confess
- What are we confessing? The Covenant God has with man
- God is my Creator, I didn't make myself so I am not God... He is
- I am His people the sheep of His pasture which means I belong to Him and He takes care of me
- So step 4 is a recognition of who God is

The fifth and sixth step is the Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise

- When you would enter the Temple, you would pass through the gates into the Temple Courts
- It was in the Temple courts that the sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins were offered
- As we pass through the gates we enter with thanksgiving
- It's the Hebrew word Todah which implies the thankfulness of knowing your sins are forgiven
- When you truly know and believe your sins are forgiven... oh the gratitude and thankfulness
- Lord, I deserve judgment... but you've forgiven me... thank you Lord!
- After you pass through the gates of the Temple, you enter into the courts with praise
- It's the Hebrew word Tehilla and it always refers to verbal expressions of praise... using your words to describe the beauty, glory, magnificence of God
- This could be done with choirs, accompanied by musical instruments or simply spoken word
- And again... it's offered with an attitude of rejoicing and great delight
- NOTE: There is always a strong connection with belief and joy... they are intertwined
- If you believe God is so good... then you will respond with a joyful attitude

The seventh and eighth step is to be thankful to Him and to bless His name

- The word for thankful is yada and it means to boast about or glory in God publicly
- Praise always involves the public declaration of God's attributes and works
- It is the primary reason why we spend so much time in worship
- Not just for us, but for those who are listening to us... so they will know who God is and what God has done
- The word for bless is "barak" and it is used over 415 times in the Hebrew Scriptures
- The word bless means to acknowledge the power that God gives to live the abundant life
- The abundant life rests directly on the loving and faithful nature of God
- If it wasn't for His grace in our lives, we would be a sad and pitiful people
- But because of God's goodness, because of God's healing power, His work in our lives we declare publicly what God has done and the power He has manifested in our lives

Why do we do this?

- For the Lord is good and He deserves honor for His goodness
- His mercy (chesed or grace) is everlasting... literally perpetual, it doesn't stop, it keeps going
- His truth (faithfulness or better yet – His unchangeableness) endures to all generations
- The use of the word generations implies linear time
- From this point forward... but it also implies that God is true in previous generations
- Thus God's truth doesn't change... it is the same from beginning to end
- In the Hebrew mindset truthfulness and steadiness or faithfulness are all intertwined with each other
- There is certainty with God and this certainty can't be changed, can't be moved, can't be influenced by cultural values or norms... it is established and firm
- Which means it's the only sure foundation for living... the truth of God and we greatest source of truth we have is the Word of God

This is how we worship and why we worship

- At this time we are going to give you an opportunity to practice worship by publicly sharing what you are thankful for...
- So let's bring our banners up as families and share what you're thankful for