

WORSHIP:

This time I want to look at the area of worship.

If you're going to look at worship, the place to go is the book of Psalms.

The Bible tells us to praise God in so many verses it would be impossible to list them here so we'll take a look at just one passage.

Psalms 100

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.

Let me point out some things in this Psalm about the act of worship.

Firstly, we are encouraged to **make a joyful noise**.

Why is our praise and worship up-tempo, bright and cheery? The Bible tells us it should be. In fact the words "joyful noise" imply an "ear splitting sound".

Our service to God should be **with gladness**. The thought behind this is for us to constantly be mindful that we have been forgiven of a debt we could never repay. We should be grateful for that even if other things in our life aren't going well. A thankful attitude will hasten the blessings of God towards us and never hinder them.

Next we see that we are to come with **singing**. Other translations and the original bring out the fact that it's joyful singing. Even when songs are slow in tempo and reverential they can be sung with joy. Have you ever cried tears of joy?

In verse 3 the Psalmist reminds us that we belong to God, He is our shepherd and we are in His care, what a comforting thought.

Thanksgiving in verse 4 speaks of laudation or speaking well of God. We should think of other phrases to express our feelings toward God other than, "thank you, thank you, thank you" over and over. Then we see the word **praise**, in this case it speaks of raising the hands. The act of raising hands is seen on two occasions; the first is when someone surrenders, we all have surrendered our lives to God. The second is when someone has won. The amazing thing to me is that in surrendering to God we win, we get to celebrate in His victory.

This verse ends with **bless His Name**. Here the word "**bles**s" in the original text is the word *barak*, which means "to kneel". To kneel in front of anyone is an act of humility and submission. None of us should be so high-minded that we wouldn't kneel before God. Great things happen when we humble ourselves. (2 Chron 7:14)

Finally in this short chapter we have a reminder as to why we do these things: Because He is good

and His mercy and truth are everlasting and endure to all generations.

God has done so much for us; if you thought about it long enough you could come up with a pretty long list, starting with the fact that He saved you!!!

Therefore we should develop a lifestyle of praise, worship and thanksgiving to God.

Let me encourage you not to leave it to the musicians and singers on the platform. You make the decision to enter into His presence with thankfulness and praise.

Steve