



## CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to Psalm 100:1-5

**Title: Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving**

**Theme: Biblical Expression of Thanksgiving to God**

**Introduction:** Psalm 100 is the grand finale of that cluster of psalms that begin in Psalm 94. The psalmist calls on all the Earth to come to God and shout for joy. Nations are to recognize who the Lord is and ascribe to Him the glory due His Name. (Psalm 96:7) At different times in this cluster of hymns all those who know the Lord are given an invitation to submit expressions of thanksgiving out of a heart response of joy and gratitude for His covenant promises. (The Expositors Bible Commentary, Thru the Bible)

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:1-5)

**Proposition:** *I would propose to you that the Lord God is worthy of a harvest festival of thanksgiving.* It has been pointed out by many that “Thanksgiving” is the offering of thanks and it is not complete until there is giving. If you are a Christian, God has called you to Christ. Jesus paid the ultimate price for your salvation and reconciliation to God, and the Holy Spirit is the one person who is working in your sanctification process.

**Interrogative Sentence:** *Just what are four Biblical expressions of thanksgiving that can be offered to the Triune God?*

**Transitional Sentence:** *Our first outward expression is singing.* Psalm 147:7 says, “Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp.” (Psalm 147:7) Ephesians 5:19 says, “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord...” (Ephesians 5:19)

“Sing” (*anah*) here is an answer of response to the goodness of God. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament; The Treasury of David)

Singing is a sure way of becoming aware of God’s presence. This singing must begin in the heart by listening to and learning the songs of praise that Holy Spirit has and is inspiring music ministers to write. Therefore, it is a necessity that you make time to listen to Christian music on a regular basis.

Illustration Pastor Ron Cox / Pastor Rick Warren

Matthew Henry wrote it well, “When God in His providence gives us a mixture of mercy and judgment it is our duty to sing, and sing unto Him both of the one and of the other; we must be suitably affected with both, and make suitable acknowledgments to the Lord for both.”

**Transitional Sentence:** *Singing is the best way to enter into the presence of God and the whole Body of Christ should make a common practice of it. The second way of expressing thankfulness is to pray.*

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Christians can give the Lord their worries. “Anxious” (*merimnao*) means not to be drawn into different directions. Christians are not to worry over anything whatsoever. “Anything” (*meden*) literally means not one thing. It is sin to do so. (Word Meanings in the New Testament; The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible) It means not even to take thought or rather be troubled in thought. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament)

Christian mystics of the middle ages: He wrote, “Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasures and its pains to a dear trusted friend. Tell the Lord your troubles, that He may comfort you; tell Him your joys, that He may [rejoice over] them; tell Him your longings, that He may [purify your heart aright]; tell Him your dislikes, that He will help you conquer them; talk to Him of your temptations, that He may shield you from them; show Him the wounds of your heart, that He may heal them; lay bare your indifference to good, your depraved taste for evil, your instability. Tell Him how self-love makes you unjust to others, how vanity tempts you to be insincere, how pride disguises you to yourself as to others.

If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, and troubles, there will be no lack of what to say to the Lord. You will never exhaust the subject. It is continually being renewed. People who have no secrets from each other never need to find subjects for conversations... they talk out of the abundance of the heart without consideration, just what they think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with [the Lord].” (Fenelon; The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart)

Adoniram Judson: “Be resolute in prayer. Make any sacrifice to maintain it. Consider that time is short and that business and company must not be allowed to rob you of that time with the Lord.”

**Transitional Sentence:** *Christians who do not allow the pleasure of the flesh, the temptations of the world and the lies of the devil to rob the Lord of the thanksgiving in prayer that He deserves please God. They also express thanks by giving.*

“Then celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.” (Deuteronomy 6:10)

The children of God who are enjoying the abundant harvest of eternal life and provision of God are to be giving a free will offering in portion to the blessings that God gives them. Exodus 23:16 tells Christians to what portion to give, "...with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field." (Exodus 23:16) With whatever means Christians use to obtain wealth, they are to give the firstfruits received from their labors. Pastor Rick Warren once saw a bumper sticker with this message, "Love Jesus, tithe. Any fool can honk."

Malachi 3:10 holds a wonderful promise to those who tithe unto the Lord's work, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)

Christians who give in true thanksgiving to the Lord are careful to give for the right reason. Christians who give to get will not be a blessing to the Lord's work or to Him. They must have the heart of king David of whom God said was a "...man after my own heart." (Acts 13:22)

1 Chronicles 29:1-20: David's Heart in Giving to the Lord's Work:

(1 Chronicles 29:22)

(1 Chronicles 28:2-3)

(1 Chronicles 29:2-3)

(1 Chronicles 29:2)

(1 Chronicles 22:5)

(1 Chronicles 22:14)

(1 Chronicles 29:3)

The temple speaks of that which is spiritual, from a right relationship with the Lord. (Thru the Bible) It represents the place that God will meet with His people and it must be remembered that the child of God is the temple that God cares about today. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

Thus, Christians who have a heart after God will, out of thanksgiving to Him, make it their business to give to the work of the Lord. They will use their resources to make sure that the Great Commission continues on. Even before their death, they make the proper arrangements, making certain that a specific amount of their resources and their personal treasures are used for the gospel of Jesus Christ. (1 Chronicles 22:1,6; 28:8; 29:16)  
(1 Chronicles 29:6-7,9)

Walter B. Knight: Layman

(Deuteronomy 8:18)

The thankful child of God knows that all he has, his talents and abilities to make money come from the Lord and they prayerfully consider what to do with all that the Lord has given them.

**Transitional Sentence:** *Thankful Christians give unto the Lord's work and they share about His wonderful works.*

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done...” (Isaiah 12:4) “Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.” (Deuteronomy 4:9) “For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us...” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4,6,11)

We give thanks to the Lord by sharing with others about the entire work of God in dealing with nations, people and the children of God; about His chastisements for disobedience and His blessings for obedience which are promised to nations, the wicked and the children of God.

Christians are to share with their children their life before Christ and especially their life after Jesus came into them. This reminds them of how God forgave them and is keeping them in His fellowship. It also offers hope to their children, friends, family members and co-workers as they tell about the love and grace of God.

The most powerful tool in a court of law outside of DNA testing is the power of an eye witness testimony. It stirs the heart of its listener, brings hope or fear to those who are exposed to their captivating words and a truthful testimony sets the record straight to the confused.

The Christian life that expresses “Amazing Grace... I was blind but now I see” and “...he is a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) gives hope to those bound by flesh, the world and the lies of the devil.

**In Closing:** Harvest time is to enjoy all that God has given you and thanks means nothing until your giving back to God the thanks do to Him. Offer thanks by singing to and about Him, praying to Him, giving all you have to Him including your talents, abilities, possessions and opportunities. Be sure to share testimony about His great work of salvation and restoration of a human life.

Let us pray!