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## **Rekindling Your Thanksgiving**

### **Psalm 100**

God delights in the praises and thanksgiving of His people (1 Chro. 16:8,34; Psalm 92:1; Psalm 95:2; 97:12; 105:1; 107:1,8,15,21,31; 136:26). Praises and thanksgiving from God's people rise up to God as a pleasant, sweet smelling aroma (Leviticus 1:9).

For believers, thanking God is not optional, it is commanded (Eph. 5:20). Gratitude to God is not seasonal, it is year-round. Gratitude is not even situational, it is all encompassing (1 Thess. 5:18; Psalm 92:1-2). From Psalm 100 (A Thanksgiving Psalm) we can learn the ABC's of rekindling our gratitude.

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**1. A \_\_\_\_\_ *the* \_\_\_\_\_ *of God***

The focus of these verses is the LORD God. Real and true thanksgiving begins by knowing the object of our thanksgiving. The object of thanksgiving and praises is the LORD (YAHWEH - the self-existent, self-sufficient eternal God) who made heaven and earth (Deut. 4:35). The LORD our God is a living personal God who relates with us and accepts our gratitude and He delights in them. And since He is our Creator, He knows us thoroughly (Acts 17:28; 1 Chro. 16:25-26). Rekindling our gratitude requires recognition of the true God and a commitment to surrender our lives to Him. We must have a personal relationship with Him (Psalm 100:3; 23:1; Matthew 7:21).

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**2. B \_\_\_\_\_ *of the* \_\_\_\_\_ *of God***

The term, "make a joyful shout" is actually a battle cry; a cry of victory, a shout of triumph. It's a call to worship a victorious God by a victorious people. It's about boasting in the LORD. Notice six commands given in this Psalm: *Shout* joyfully, *Serve* with gladness, *Come* with joyful singing, *Enter* with thanksgiving and praise, *Give* thanks, and *Bless* His name. All these express that God is worthy of praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 145:3; 2 Sam. 22:4). We boast of God's wonderful works and His mighty deeds (Psalm 34:2; 71:23). Psalm 100:5 mentions three particular works of God that are the basis of thanksgiving: God's goodness, (Psalm 34:8; 135:3; 136:1; Nahum 1:7); God's mercies, and God's unchanging promises.

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**3. C \_\_\_\_\_ *the* \_\_\_\_\_ *of God***

Joy is the ultimate expression of thanksgiving. In the three exhortations: "make a joyful noise to the Lord" (v. 1a), "serve the Lord with gladness" (v. 2a), and "come into his presence with singing" (v. 2b), the dominant theme is joy and gladness. There are 27 words in Hebrew for the word "joy" which is used about 108 times in the Psalms alone. Joy is also a recurring theme in the New Testament (Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Gal. 5:22, etc). Joy is what Jesus came to give his followers (John 15:11; 1 John 1:4). Through Jesus Christ, believers have a wonderful privilege of coming before God's presence (Hebrews 10:19 ff).

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Whenever we come to God in worship let us be careful and diligent and devoted to "*enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!*"

*"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus our Lord- 1 Thess. 5:18*