



The Original Thanksgiving Hymn

By Shannon Ford on May 6, 2024

TODAY'S READING: Psalm 100

There is perhaps no better place in scripture to find genuine, sincere, constant thankfulness to God than in the Psalms. David and the other psalmists filled their poetry with gratitude to God. They lifted their voices in praise to Him constantly, during the best and worst times of life. Psalm 100 answers two vital questions about giving thanks that I would like to point out. First, how do we give thanks to God?

David uses three verbs that demonstrate how God wants us to offer our praise to Him:

- Shout (*Make a joyful noise*) - Giving thanks is not just to benefit you, but so others can hear your shouts of praise and glorify God with you.
- Serve (*Serve the Lord with gladness*) - If an attitude can be adjusted to serve the Lord with gladness, this indicates that a thankful heart is a decision. It is the result of daily submission to the will of God.
- Sing (*Come before him with joyful songs*) - David encourages true worshipers to focus on the lyrics and allow the words of praise to fill our hearts and mouths with joy and thanksgiving.

The second vital question is, why do we need to thank Him? Is it because God needs to hear “thank you” from us? Is He simply attempting to teach us “good manners” in the same way we teach our children? David moves through this Psalm to show us many of the attributes of God that fill our hearts with worship and thankfulness. He begins by redirecting our focus not on what God does, but on who God is. “*Know that the Lord, he is God!*” (Psalm 100:3a). He deserves our thankfulness and worship because of who He is. He is God!

We thank Him because of “His faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 100:5b) meaning in every generation He remains the same. God is not temperamental or fickle, He is faithful. David also thanked God for creating him. David rejoiced in verse 3: “*It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture*” (Psalm 100:3b).

God made us. He made you and He made me – down to the details of how we look and think! Your body was woven by your Creator who fashioned you. God wired the way you think and gifted you with the talents He knew you would use for His glory. Do not forget to give Him thanks every day.

PRAYER: Almighty God, You care so much about me that You crafted every single detail of who I am. I will never be able to fully praise You enough. Lord, remind me daily to thank You and serve You with gladness! Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 103

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