



### March 29, 2011 - Psalm 100:1

Hi everyone,

It is time to begin Phase 2 of "A Year in the Psalms." If you are just joining in for the first time, welcome! And...if you are continuing the journey through Psalms, we're glad to still be joining hands with you. Psalm 143 is an amazing passage. I pray you will continue to review and ponder it. If you are not quite done with it yet, I also encourage you to still try to finish. You'll be glad you did. However, it is now time to move on to our next passage, Psalm 100 and Psalm 101! For the next 13 weeks we look forward to how God is going to shape all of us through this time of treasuring His Word.

Before starting to memorize verse 1, I hope you will take a moment and read Psalm 100 and 101 in their entirety. As I did so, I really saw two overall themes. First, it's just right to live before the Lord in worship. And secondly, it's just right to live before the Lord in righteousness. As we store these chapters in our hearts, I believe God is going to encourage and challenge us to do both.

Psalm 100:1 is short, so it should give you a great memorizing start this week. In the NASB it reads,

**"Shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth."**

I love it when the Bible is clear and this is one of those times. Verse 1 is very clear about approaching the Lord. It begins with a clear word, "**shout**". This word is translated from the Hebrew word "ruwa" and it means to literally shout out with great sound. The definition indicates this crying out can be for many reasons...a shouting out for triumph, for war, for applause, for joy or for help in distress. Lots of reasons, but the direction is clear, we are to "**shout**" to the Lord.

Does this mean we have to literally produce a loud sound to God as we seek to live our lives in worship? Lots of thoughts could weigh in on that one. Let's think of it like this though...when you shout you will know it. And if others are around, they will know it too. So, when was the last time your life shouted to the Lord? In other words, when was the last time your life produced a loud sound indicating you are looking up and seeking to get God's attention? You

will know it and others will too. Maybe you shouted because:

- you just wanted to let God know you are grateful for the victory He gave you
- you needed God to go to battle for you
- you wanted to applaud God for His goodness
- you wanted to express joy for the opportunity to live in freedom
- you needed God's help as you were distressed

There are lots of reasons to do it and verse 1 is clear we should, so...when was the last time your life "**shouted**" to the Lord and what did your shout say?

Verse 1 is also clear about how we should do it. We should "**shout joyfully.**" Regardless of why we are shouting, we should always shout with joy. Even if we are shouting out in distress or need, we can shout with joy because of the ONE whom we are shouting to. He is God! (see v. 3) Knowing that brings joy in all things. So.. when was the last time your life "**shouted joyfully**" to the Lord?

Finally, verse 1 is clear about who should do it. "**Shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth.**" You can't misunderstand that one; it is clear as can be. No exceptions. No exemptions. No excuses. Just simple clear direction from our God.

Let your life make a loud and joyful sound to Him today. It is right to worship in this way!

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**If you are just joining us in this memorization project...welcome! This is the first devotion for phase two, Psalm 100-101. The weekly devotions for chapter 143 (phase one) are available on our website by clicking on "A Year of Psalms" on the home page.**  
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