



**April 19, 2011 - Psalm 100:4**

Hi everyone,

So, is your life "**shouting to the Lord**" today? Are you "**serving Him with gladness**" in this moment? Are you "**coming before Him with joyful singing**" in your heart? Is your activity declaring that it is "**God Himself who made you**" and that your life belongs to Him? Are you dwelling in "**His pasture**" today or roaming around in some swanky place on the outskirts of His kingdom or maybe even very far from home? I know, I know...I am full of questions, but they are so important. As we memorize these verses, may they not just be words in our heads. May our life's worship to Him be rightly expressed in our everyday moments! Let's move on to verse 4.

In the NASB Psalm 100:4 reads,

**"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise.  
Give thanks to Him; bless His name."**

This week's verse has a sense of progression with it. Here is what I mean. The first part of verse 4 says, "**Enter His gates with thanksgiving.**" The gates were the first entrance spots to the temple. So as worshippers approached the temple, the direction was to do so with thanksgiving.

The second part of verse 4 says, "**and His courts with praise.**" As a worshipper came to the temple, he would first enter the gates and then progress to the different courts as he sought to worship God. I say different courts because within the temple there were courts according to the worshipper's identity. For instance, there was a court for the women, there was a court for the gentiles, there was a court for the priests, etc. Each step of progression took a worshipper closer to the inner court, which housed the Holy of Holies where the presence of God dwelt. Under the old covenant, only the high priest could ever enter the Holy of Holies in worship, but praise God, we live under a new covenant now. The death and resurrection of Christ made it possible for all believers to approach God in worship and progress all the way into the Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God.

We praise God for that, but there is still rich Truth for us to see in this verse. This Truth should

cause us to consider how we are personally approaching God in worship. Do we just run into the Holy of Holies and start pouring out our requests to God or do we progress, preparing our hearts by "**entering His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.**" Thanksgiving is different than praise but the expression of one will lead to the other. Thanksgiving is an expression of gratefulness to God. Praise is an expression of awe at who God is. As I approach God with thanksgiving, I will progress to praise because my heart is so full of gratitude for what He has done that I begin then to lift Him up and express awe at His attributes that allowed Him to do it.

The third part of verse 4 basically repeats what has already been said. This is very common in Hebrew poetry but let's not miss its significance. I believe its repetition is declaring it is right to worship in this way. As we do, not only will we progress from thanksgiving to praise, we will be preparing our hearts for the experience we can have with the Lord in the Holy of Holies. See, when we have already progressed through thanksgiving and praise, by the time we meet with the Lord face to face, we are so in awe of who He is that our needs, our desires, our hurts and our concerns pale in comparison. We fall in worship before Him because we have once again been brought to a place of belief in the Everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of earth who is our Maker and Shepherd. We bring worship to Him but He restores our souls. Worship that progresses this way gives us the time to see our God for who He is, instead of having our minds and hearts so focused on ourselves.

Once again Psalm 100 is showing us the right way to worship...may we make its words a part of our life moments this week. It is just right to worship in this way!

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