

Guidelines That Help Us Worship "In Spirit"

(Psalm 100)

Introduction:

1. In John 4:23-24 Jesus revealed His requirements for true worship.
 - a. First, true worshippers worship the Father.
 - b. Second, true worshippers worship the Father "in spirit" [with the proper attitude and disposition] and "in truth" [according to God's will revealed in the New Testament].
2. From Psalm 100 we are pointing out 2 important "guidelines that help us worship 'in spirit.'"

Discussion:

I. IN VS.1-3 "PRAISE" IS EMPHASIZED

A. Consider 3 statements made in vs.1-2:

1. *"make a joyful noise unto the Lord"*
2. *"serve the Lord with gladness"* (see Psalm 122:1)
3. *"come before His presence with singing."*

B. Many of the Psalms begin in a similar way (95:1; 96:1; 98:1).

C. Consider 3 statements made in vs.3 that show why God deserves our praise:

1. *"the Lord He is God"* (see Psalm 95:3-5)
2. *"He has made us, and not we ourselves"* (see Psalm 95:6)
3. *"we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture"* (see Psalm 23).
 - a. (vs.1a) David recognized the Lord as his Shepherd.
 - b. He listed 12 blessings associated with knowing the Lord as his Shepherd.
 - 1) Contentment: *"I shall not want"*
 - 2) Providential care: *"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"*
 - 3) Peace: *"He leadeth me beside the still waters"*
 - 4) Restoration: *"He restoreth [turns back] my soul"*
 - 5) Direction: *"He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake"*
 - 6) Courage: *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil"*
 - 7) Companionship: *"Thou art with me"*
 - 8) Comfort: *"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"*
 - 9) Favor: *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil"*
 - 10) Abundance: *"My cup runneth over"*
 - 11) Assurance: *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"*

12) Immortality: *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."*

D. These principles that relate to praise will help us worship God "in spirit."

II. IN VS.4-5 "THANKSGIVING" IS EMPHASIZED

A. Consider 2 statements made in vs.4:

1. *"enter into His gates with thanksgiving"*
2. *"be thankful unto Him."*

B. Similar appeals are made in other Psalms (105:1; 106:1; 107:1).

C. Consider 3 statements made in vs. 5 that show why God deserves our thanks:

1. *"the Lord is good"*
2. *"His mercy is everlasting"* (see Psalm 103:8, 11)
3. *"His truth endureth to all generations."*

D. These principles that relate to thanksgiving will help us worship God "in spirit."

Conclusion:

1. Praise and thanksgiving have always been important elements in the worship that God desires from His people.
 - a. Psalm 100 shows us that the Israelites were to worship God with praise and thanksgiving.
 - b. For Christian worship, see Ephesians 5:19-20; Hebrews 13:15.
2. On the basis of these principles, let us offer praise and thanksgiving to God as we worship Him "in spirit."