

Keep Heart

Keep Your Heart Singing the Right Song: Psalm 100

Read Psalm 100 together:

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Songs That Resonate

Most of us have heard a song at a very specific time or place in our lives that deeply affected us. Maybe it was a song we heard when dealing with grief because of the death of a friend or family member; maybe it was a song we heard when we first fell in love!

- ? What is a song that deeply affects you and what were your circumstances at the time?
- ? We have had a challenging year, to say the least! We are living through a pandemic; we have watched rioting in our cities and nation; we see and hear social and racial unrest all around us. So, in this year of pain and uncertainty, what song are you singing?

It is all too easy to look around us and see only sickness, sadness, and discord. It is easy to question where this will ultimately take us. We all tend to ask, "How can anything good come out of all this?" It is easy to forget that life itself is a gift. We fail to see all of the gifts we have been given. How we view the Giver of these gifts will determine how we view our circumstances and verbalize our gratitude.

The Apostle James, the half-brother of Jesus, reminds us that our Heavenly Father is the Giver of all gifts; these gifts are always "good and perfect". If our identity and comfort originate in our good and gracious Father, then we are able to verbalize our gratitude in the midst of life's chaos and confusion. It is God's way of providing a layer of depth, security, and certainty to our lives.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change
James 1:17

It takes faith, but we must remember that God is firmly in control, even when it doesn't seem like He is! The author of the book of Hebrews admitted that it doesn't always appear that Christ truly has everything in subjection to himself (Hebrews 2: 8)! All too often, we don't sing songs of contentment, gratitude, or prayer.

So, let's look at Psalm 100 together and see what it teaches us about the songs of the saints!

The Chorus of Our Confession

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. (Psalm 100:3)

? What is the imagery used in this verse? Did you grow up on a farm? Do you have an understanding of sheep and shepherds?

? What does it tell us about God and our relationship with him?

? If you are struggling to be thankful to God, maybe it is time for careful self-inspection. Is your lack of thankfulness because you aren't a child of God? Are you in full agreement that "the LORD, he is God"?

? If you are struggling to be thankful to God, maybe it is time for careful self-inspection. Is your lack of thankfulness because you aren't a child of God? Are you in full agreement that "the LORD, he is God"?

If we are children of God, we need to confess that we need him! We need to find our rest in the truth revealed in his Word that everything he does is for our good and his glory! In times of great unrest and uncertainty, like now, we need this prayer of confession more than ever!

The Verse of Our Voice

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100:4)

The security of our relationship with the giver of all gifts reminds us that the well of His grace is unlimited! He never grows tired of us. He never forsakes us.

? What verses remind you of God's unlimited grace?

? What verses remind you of God's unlimited (steadfast) love?

The Muse of Our Meandering

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

The certainty of our relationship with the Giver allows us to live amid the chaos and confusion of today. Because we know where we've come from and where we are going, we can live in the mess of today.

? What verses remind you of God's promise to complete His work in you?

Let Our Life Song Sing

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1,2)

The goodness of God is infinitely more wonderful than we will ever be able to comprehend.
AW Tozer

AW Tozer spoke rightly when he said we can never fully comprehend how wonderful our God is! But it is from our limited understanding of God and His greatness that we can begin to verbalize our gratitude.

? Why do you think we find it so difficult to comprehend God's goodness? What conscious changes do you need to make in your thinking to comprehend God's goodness more fully?

? Has God been stingy with His gifts to us in 2020? Or, have we simply focused on the wrong song?

Let's fight to rightly see God's goodness and His gracious gifts of life and salvation! Let's discard our songs of discontentment, ingratitude, and prayerlessness! Rather, let's focus on the Giver of all good and perfect gifts with the deepest gratitude!