

ENTER HIS GATES

100

*A Guide to True Worship — A
Study of Psalm 100*

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Preface

This booklet grew from a sermon on Psalm 100 and is intended as a practical, theological, and devotional guide to corporate and personal worship. It unpacks Psalm 100 verse by verse, explains key Hebrew terms, traces historical context, and draws out Apostolic Oneness emphases on worship “in spirit and truth” (John 4:23–24). Use it for personal study, small-group meditation, or as a leader’s handbook for worship renewal.

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Introduction: Why Psalm 100?

Psalm 100 is a concise, exuberant summons to universal praise. Its commands are both simple and profound: call all creation to joyful praise, serve with gladness, enter God’s presence with song and thanksgiving, and remember why — because God

is good, steadfast in love, and faithful through all generations. For a church committed to worship that is both Spirit-filled and doctrinally sound, Psalm 100 provides a compact template for what true worship looks like.

Historical and Literary Background

- Genre: A thanksgiving hymn (Mizmor leTodah), likely used in temple liturgy.
- Traditional attribution: Davidic in Jewish and early Christian tradition, linked to the courtly and temple context of Israel’s worship life.
- Setting: Temple gates and courts imagery evokes sacrificial thanksgiving offerings (todah) and festival worship. The psalm’s universal summons (“all the earth”) anticipates the gospel’s global reach (Rev 7:9–10).
- Function: A call not only for Israel but for nations to recognize Yahweh’s covenant lordship and to join the praise of the Creator.

Key Hebrew Terms and Their New Testament Parallels

- harí’û (הַרְעִי) — “Shout for joy!”: a loud, celebratory cry.
- ’ibdû (עַבְדוּ) — “Serve/Worship”: service that is also worship (cf. *latreúō*).

- b'sim ah (בְּשִׂמְחָה) — “with gladness.”
- b'tôdah (בְּתוֹדָה) — “with thanksgiving/todah offering.”
- t'hillāh (תְּהִלָּה) — “praise/song of praise.”
- ḥesed (חֶסֶד) — “steadfast love/ covenant loyalty.”
- 'ěmûnâh (אֱמוּנָה) — “faithfulness.”

These terms link Old Testament worship practice (thank-offering, temple service) with New Testament worshipal language (eucharistía, latreía, pístis).

Verse-by-Verse Exposition

Verse 1 — Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

- Universal summons to loud, public praise. Worship is not private piety alone; it is corporate proclamation of God's kingship.

Verse 2 — Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

- Service and worship are united. Even work done for God is worship when offered joyfully. Singing announces our approach into God's presence.

Verse 3 — Know that the LORD, he is God; it is he who made us, and we are his.

- True worship presupposes knowledge of God’s identity (Creator, Covenant Lord). Belonging to Him (sheep of his pasture) grounds our trust and praise.

Verse 4 — Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; give thanks to him; bless his name.

- Thanksgiving and praise are the pilgrim’s approach. Todah suggests both praise and a sacrificial gratitude enacted in offering.

Verse 5 — For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

- The grounds of praise: God’s essential goodness, eternal covenant love (*ḥesed*), and enduring faithfulness (*’ēmənâh*). These create a theologically rooted motive for worship.

The Theology of True Worship

- Worship in Spirit and Truth: Jesus’ standard (John 4:23–24) demands sincerity empowered by the Holy Spirit and fidelity to revealed truth.
- The Name of Jesus: From an Apostolic Oneness perspective, true worship is offered to the one God revealed in Jesus. Worship in Jesus’ name is to

confess His Lordship (Acts 2:38; Philippians 2:9–11).

- God’s exclusive glory: God gives His glory to no other (Isaiah 42:8). Any devotion misdirected to idols, self, or creation is a theft of the worship due God. Satan’s work includes attempts to divert praise (John 10:10; Matthew 4:9–10).
- Worship as sacrifice: Praise is a spiritual offering (Hebrews 13:15). Our lives, words, and songs are sacrificial service to God (Romans 12:1).

Biblical Illustrations of Worshipful Faith

- Job: Immediate worship in suffering (Job 1:20–22). Worship can be the first response to loss.
- Abraham: Obedience as worship (Gen 22). True worship sometimes requires costly surrender.
- Apostolic and New Testament examples: Paul and Silas praised in prison (Acts 16:25); Revelation’s nations praising the Lamb (Rev 5–7).

Practical Guide: Cultivating Worship in Spirit and Truth

Personal disciplines:

- Daily Scripture meditation focused on God’s attributes (goodness, faithfulness, chesed).
- Private times of praise and thanksgiving; a practice of “todah” — naming blessings and testimonies.

- Expectant prayer for the Holy Ghost to enable heartfelt worship.

Corporate principles:

- Align music and liturgy with biblical truth; worship must preach the gospel.
- Foster environments where Spirit-led expression (including tongues and interpretation in Apostolic practice) is welcomed and orderly (1 Cor 14).
- Train leaders to lead both joyful exuberance and reverent doctrinal clarity.

Practical tips:

- Begin services with Psalm 100's commands: call to praise, a short testimony of God's goodness, then a sung entry into worship with thanksgiving.
- Encourage testimonies (todah offerings) as a normal part of worship, linking praise with testimony.

Order of Worship (A Psalm 100 Service Model)

- Call to worship: Psalm 100:1–2 (congregational response)
- Opening praise set (joyful, scriptural)
- Testimony/todah time (short, focused)
- Scripture reading: Psalm 100 + related passages

(John 4:23–24; Phil 2:9–11)

- Sermon/teaching: Exhortation to worship in spirit and truth
- Response time: prayer, altar ministry, invitation (Acts 2:38)
- Communion of praise: sacrificial songs, led thanksgiving
- Benediction: Psalm 100:5

Pastoral Applications and Counseling in Worship

- For the struggling worshiper: guide them to Psalm 100's simple steps — remember God's goodness, practice thanksgiving, receive the Spirit's help.
- For worship leaders: guard both freedom and order; cultivate theological depth in song choice and testimony.
- Address idolatry gently: help people identify what competes for their worship and offer steps toward repentance and rededication.

Invitation: Responding to God in Jesus' Name

- An invitation to repentance, confession of Jesus as Lord, and reception of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:38. For Apostolic believers, the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost in speaking in tongues is

an expected gift to empower praise and witness.

- Practical next steps: confess sin, be baptized in Jesus' name, seek the Holy Ghost in prayer and the laying on of hands.

Prayers, Litanies, and Responsive Readings

- Short litany for corporate use:

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: We will serve the LORD with gladness.

Leader: We enter His gates with thanksgiving;

People: We enter His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

- Prayer for revival of praise, a brief benediction prayer, and morning/evening liturgies based on Psalm 100.

Appendices

- Timeline of Worship Events: from Exodus/Tabernacle, through David/Temple, exile and return, to Christ the True Temple, Pentecost, and the worldwide Church.
- Glossary: concise definitions of *harî'û*, *'ibdû*, *todah*, *esed*, *'mûnâh*, *latreú*, *eucharistía*, *pístis*.
- Suggested Scripture Readings: Psalms 95–100, Hebrews 13:15, John 4:23–24, Acts 2, Philippians 2.
- Suggested Hymns and Songs: classic hymns of

praise and modern worship songs that emphasize God's goodness, covenant love, and the name of Jesus.

- Resources: recommended commentaries, pastoral books on worship, and liturgical guides aligned with Apostolic theology.

Closing Benediction

May the Lord, who is good, whose steadfast love endures forever, and whose faithfulness reaches to all generations, awaken a fresh heart of worship in us. May we enter His gates with thanksgiving, serve Him with gladness, and bless His holy name in Jesus' Name. Amen