

Psalm 100 “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

Do you think our worship lacks something? Does it lack emotion? It shouldn't. Our worship should evoke or produce emotion in us, as an individual response in our spirit to God.

Now, I'm **not** talking of emotionalism here. You know - Cunningly orchestrated singing is used to stir the emotions of the crowd; Maybe a little hand clap here or there, a little solo outburst. An emotionally charged evangelist spurs people on with repetitive phrases and oratory; Hands and bodies sway to and fro ---- the atmosphere has been established. Folks might jump up, waving their hands and shouting out who knows what. And people attribute this to God! “Oh yes Lord! I feel your presence!”

Is this worship that gives glory to God, or is it merely a display of our unbridled emotions? It's Exhibitionism, showing off. Jesus had something to say of this:

Matthew 23:5-7 “But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.”

These are the people who think, or say, my faith is greater than yours because I was yelling louder. By my actions in worship I was showing I was more “in the spirit”.

Our religion is not a competition. Our religion is between us and GOD – not between us and our neighbor. Our worship is focused on our God, not those around us. Remember what God says of our singing:

Ephesians 5:19 “...singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

Welling up emotions for the **sake** of being emotional and entertained is **not** sincere worship. **It is *emotionalism* not emotion.**

If it's “**better felt than told**” then it's emotionalism and not emotion, because emotions are reactions to events or thoughts that require our conscious awareness. They are the results of our awareness, our knowledge – not unconscious reactions.

Thinking of and considering our God should produce a variety of emotions in us: **contrition** and **sorrow** for sin; **guilt and pain** at the necessary sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for **our** sins; a **fervent longing** to be in the presence of God; a **trembling awe** of the glory of His presence and greatness of His power; **humility** in being able to serve him; **thanksgiving** for the blessings of God and that he humbles himself to consider us; **rejoicing** and **hope** for the salvation which God supplies.

These are all emotions rightly and properly evoked upon consideration of our God. Emotion is necessary; if we aren't moved by what God has done and will do for us, they must mean little to us and we're dead.

However, emotion is **not** to be the **basis** of our faith and worship, nor is it an **end** to itself. Emotions are the result of our worship – of our better understanding of God. Welling up emotions for the sake of being emotional is not sincere worship. **It is emotionalism and is wrong.** We don't **seek** emotion, but we should **find** it.

Our actions and feelings are based on what God has done, and will do, for us. They start with an awareness that there **IS** a God! When starting at square 1 with someone, talking to them of God and wanting them to ultimately obey the gospel, actually I like to start at square 100 – the 100th Psalm that is. Let's look at it for a moment:

Psalm 100:1 “**Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.**”

You **have** to do something, you don't sit back and watch. You must participate; you must make a “Joyful noise” – a sound produced **by** joy. You must **have** that joy in order to make it. This “noise” is a **spiritual** melody, from our **hearts**:

Eph 5:19 “**singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**”

In our hearts, because that is the spiritual eternal part of us that God is interested in. “To the Lord” because He is the **source** of the joy. We must recognize that, and when we do, we'll know what to do.

Men try to be happy. All of us do, “make a joyful noise --- all ye lands”. What do you need to be happy? A warm house, enough food, a big screen TV, A Hummer, a Maserati, swimming pool, bowling alley, a dozen more big rooms in your house? Money can get you these things. But, real happiness comes from God.

Mark 8:36 “**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?**”

We are happy in the Lord because he promises us an **eternity** with him. Not just 40 or 50 years of **wealth** and **comfort** on this earth.

Romans 2:7 “**To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.**”

Is that what you want? Then Yes! we **should** be Joyful – and let God know it!

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Psalm 100:2 “**Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.**”

We are to serve Him, no one else – not 2 or 3 masters, just Him!

Matt 6:24 “**No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**”

Why would we want to? He is the LORD! No one else can approach his power and glory. If we are truly disciples we'll be like his disciples back then:

John 6:67,68 “Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”

Why be conflicted with demands from different quarters?
Who wants that? Serve the LORD! It's simpler, and He's a **much** better boss.
If we really love Him, and by faith we will, we **WILL** serve Him:

1 John 5:3 “**For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.**”

When we “Serve” the Lord, how are we?
When we “Serve” the Lord, we are humble
When we “Serve” the Lord, we are pious, mindful He is the Lord
When we “Serve” the Lord, we are active – we **serve**, doing His will.

Serve with gladness – for his commandments are not grievous, his yoke is light:

Matt 11:29 “**Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**”

And we **must** do this with gladness.
This is the evidence that we **want** to do it!
If we believe God's promises, if we have faith, we'll be GLAD!
Our gladness credits our religion, to God and others about us.

Do you like to be waited upon by someone who serves you moping about and dejected, with no smile, with no gladness? No, you'd rather have no servant at all, than one who evidently finds serving you cheerless and a bother.

We should be happy, we should sing, because we **can** come before his presence – He **will** receive us:

John 14:1-3 “**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.**”

How should we feel about this? He has prepared a place for us, where Jesus is we will be also! How should we react?

James 5:13 “**Is any merry? let him sing psalms.**” – **Come before his presence with singing.**

Psalms 100:3 “**Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**”

Our worship must be intelligent. We must know whom we worship and why.

Blind sacrifices will never please a seeing God. God wants our hearts and minds, not blind emotion, which is emotionalism. We must **know** He is our LORD and God:

Acts 17:22,23 “Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, *Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.*”

We must study the Bible, God’s word, to learn of him. **Knowing that the Lord He is God, is GOOD for US. We will be:**

True amid superstition, for God is the source of all truth and we seek it out.

Hopeful in repentance, for God is faithful and just

Persistent in supplication, for God is merciful

Unwearied in exertion, for God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him

Calm in affliction, for we know All things work together for good to those who love God

Firm in temptation, for Heaven is a far better reward than anything in this world

Bold in persecution, For if we own up to Him, he will own us

Happy in dissolution, as we leave this world, knowing, if we’ve been faithful, He will receive us.

Yes, **Know** ye that the LORD he is God, it is he that hath made us.

He made us, not we ourselves – we’re created, we don’t own ourselves.

Some men live as if they made themselves; they call themselves "self-made men.

This is the **wrong** attitude to have with God:

Romans 9:20,21 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed *it*, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”

Think! If we don’t acknowledge God as our creator, can we reverence Him?

To not claim honor for ourselves is a necessary a part of true reverence

The appropriate emotion is **HUMILITY – being little in our own sight.**

We are his people – we are His **subjects**, He is our sovereign **Ruler**, our King, our Lord, that gives laws to us as moral agents to obey, and will call us to an account for what we do. This is **responsibility, our** responsibility to do, or not.

And this is what we want! For who is mightier and better able to take care of us than God?

We belong to **Him**, we are His people, not someone else’s. – **HALLELUJAH!**

We are his sheep in His pasture, he will take care of – he will lead us and feed us and watch over us and call us to Him, to heaven. Jesus, after his resurrection showed this care for us:

John 21:15 “So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, *son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.*”

We recognize our place, who we are, and our relationship to God. “**we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**”

Psalm 100:4 “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”

We need to move. To enter. Fortunately, we don't have to stumble around blindly wondering which way to go. We're his sheep, His people, he gave us a **shepherd** to follow:

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

He gives us clear, simple directions on how we can enter His gates.

We should be **thankful** for that!

And also thankful because to the **most guilty**, the gates of his church are open!

We have the privilege of access.

We have the duty of thankfulness.

We should rejoice in BOTH!

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

The rendering of thanks must abound; it is like the incense of the temple, it filled the whole house with smoke. Physical sacrifices are ended, but the sacrifice of gratitude we offer up will never be out of date. God still wants, and demands it:

Hebrews 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.”

So long as we are receivers of mercy we must be givers of thanks. Mercy permits us to enter his gates; let us praise that mercy. What better subject for our thoughts in God's own house than the **Lord** of that house

Be thankful unto him. Again, let the praise and thanks be in our hearts as well as on our tongue.

Col 3:15,16 “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”

Be thankful, sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord.

What if we don't? We're foolish, ungrateful wretches, our religion is vain:

Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Don't do that, be thankful unto him ...

And bless his name. He blessed you, bless him in return; bless his name, his character, his person. Whatever he does, be sure that you bless him for it; bless him when he takes away as well as when he gives;

Job 1:20,21 “Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”

Bless him as long as you live, under all circumstances; Bless the God of our salvation:

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Yes, Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Why?

Psalms 100:5 “ For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.”

We are joyful and thankful and praise Him and bless Him for HE IS GOOD!

This sums up his character and contains many reasons for praise and gladness and thanksgiving. The Lord IS good! He is gracious, kind, bountiful, forgiving, just, faithful, merciful, and loving. He humbled himself to consider us; yes, God is GOOD. He who does **not** praise that good can **not** be good himself. The kind of praise given in the Psalm, that of joy and gladness, is most fitly and rightly urged upon us by the **goodness** of God.

And His mercy is everlasting. God is not mere justice: stern and cold; he has bowels of compassion, and yearns that all will come to repentance; He doesn’t want **any** to perish. Towards his own people his mercy is still more conspicuously displayed;

Romans 7:24,25 “But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

Unchangeable, ever living, making intercession for us. Everlasting mercy is a glorious attribute of a God who is GOOD! It is **why** we turn to Him in the first place.

And his truth endureth to all generations. God isn’t fickle or changeable as men are, promising and forgetting. He has entered into a covenant with his people, and he will never revoke it, nor alter the thing that has He has spoken. As our fathers found him faithful, so will our sons, and their seed for ever. A changeable God would be a **terror** to the righteous, they would have no sure anchorage, and amid a changing world they would be driven to and fro in perpetual fear of shipwreck. We would have no peace, but uncertainty; despair rather than a joyous hope.

We need to remember His divine faithfulness. Our hearts should leap for joy as we bow before One who has never broken his word or changed his purpose. Resting on his sure word, by faith we feel that joy which is here commanded.

Psalm 100, good for us to know and contemplate.

Yes, let us all KNOW that the Lord He is God and worship with a readiness and desire to give glory to Him and encouragement to our brethren. If we do so, our emotions will most certainly be stirred, as will the emotions of all others who have prepared themselves for worship by considering the goodness of our God. Emotions, **not** stirred by human manufacture, but rather stirred by our faith in God and the **certain** knowledge of his great love for us and that He has called us to glory and honor, immortality, eternal life Rom 2:7.

But emotion is no evidence of our salvation!

If our emotions are not stirred, where's our faith? Do we believe there is a God?
If our emotions are stirred, where's our faith, if they are stirred up by men - emotionalism?

Do we believe the promise of God? There's one sure test!

If you haven't acted on that faith, it's dead – and you are dead, in your sins.

James 2:26 "... so faith without works is dead also"

Here's an example, from the Bible, God's word, of what you should do in response to hearing the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the Good news that he has redeemed us and that through him we can come to God:

Acts 8:35,39 "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."

Do this, not motivated by emotion. You may feel it, but it's not the basis of your faith. Do it based on your faith in the resurrection of Jesus. Do it because it is what Jesus has commanded, through his apostles"

1 Peter 3:21 "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Do it because it is the answer of a good conscience towards God!

[Sermon 5/29/2011 by Ed Kelleher at West Columbia church of Christ. All scriptures read and projected on screen during the sermon.]