

# What We Do!

## *Genuine Worship:*

Psalm 100:1-5

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Psalm 100 begins: “*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*” God’s Spirit is speaking to the people of the earth, including you. God is calling us to shout for joy.

In a checkout line this past week, a husband was paying for some merchandise when his wife pushed their cart past an electronic eye. As the store alarm sounded, the cashier called to the woman, “Don’t worry.” I chimed in, “You’re the millionth customer.” The wife put her arms in the air, skipped and yelled, “Wahoo!” I thought of the television show, *The Price Is Right!* Let’s witness of a minute of good fortune. (clip).

We see a lot of joy as people celebrate their good fortune. **Good fortune brings joy!** Today the Spirit of God calls to all the earth saying: “You have good fortune. You all have reason to dance, shout, clap and celebrate.” You all have great reason to yell, “Wahoo!”

We also experience great joy with great achievements. There is the pride and joy in winning, especially championships. I remember when the Twins won the American League Championship Series over Detroit. Tens of thousands filled the Metrodome in joy. At Bethany I have experienced great joy as we have worked so hard and successfully produced a Christmas program, a musical or a Vacation Bible School. The euphoria is like that of a great victory. If you work among us and see it come off, you experience that amazing euphoria. In great victories or blessings, shouting is appropriate. **Great achievement brings joy.** I think

everything must pale in comparison to the victory in World War II and its great parades. The cost of that victory, the millions of families that lost loved ones, the threat that darkened the earth and lifted with victory, the foe and evil that was vanquished, and the blessing it brought. Could there be a greater moment of joy for the American people? The tears, the applause, the shouts, the gratitude, the dancing and exhilaration! The Spirit of God says “Shout for joy to the Lord” because of a great achievement. The threat is enormous. The cost unthinkable! The evil difficult to face! Yet, the Lord your God at great cost has won for you. You are a winner over sin and death because of God’s achievement. He deserves a victory shout. God came to earth and suffered our lot. God in Jesus Christ sacrificed himself for you. He has won victory over death for you and me. Isn’t that worth a Wahoo?

Genuine worship is something greater, deeper and more stirring than some duty. **In genuine worship we get in touch with the truth and authentically celebrate. We get in touch with the truth and we get in touch with God; and we act accordingly.**

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.* (Psalm 100:1-2, NIV)

You may be sick. You may be out of a job and out of money. You may be tired, worn out and discouraged. You may be afraid. You may feel rejected and alone. However, know something:

***Know that Yahweh*** (the God who made covenant with Moses) ***is God. It is he who made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*** (Psalm 100:3, NIV)

Are you sick, strapped, depressed, worried, alone? I have great news. God made you. You belong to him. You’re his sheep. He cares for you. He acts on your behalf and works in

your circumstance. He determines the outcome. He glories in your triumph. You are his achievement. Isn't that worth a Wahoo?

I think today of the gift of baptism we celebrate. According to the Bible, God takes a piece of his creation, water, and makes it an outward and visible sign of the inward washing of our souls from the stain of sin. I think of what God's saint, Ananias, said to the misguided, young rabbi who would bless us as the Apostle Paul:

***And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.*** (Acts 22:16, NIV)

I think of how God calls us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so that we take on the identity of God himself. We are his family through forgiveness; and even more, we are baptized into the person of Jesus Christ, becoming his soul-mate, so that we share everything with Christ. We share the love of God with Jesus. We share the thoughts and feelings of God with Jesus. We share the Spirit of God with Jesus. We share his future, his inheritance, his resurrection. I think of this great gift and achievement by God. Isn't it worth a shout for joy?

I think of how we are so shaped by relationships, by parents, by friendships. Trust and communication are critical or there is no meaningful relationship. I think of the promises God has given us that invite relationship:

***If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame"... for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."***  
(Romans 10:9-13, NIV)

I think of how doing just that, calling on the Lord, brings salvation, and how believing that Jesus' blood saves us changes our hearts so that we look at everything differently. We no longer focus on right and wrong, good and bad. We focus on Jesus. Everything is about

reconnecting with our Creator; and God uses our faith in his Word and work to wash our minds and hearts. We change right before everybody's eyes. We become examples of God at work.

Isn't that worth joyful celebration and great songs?

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his court with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.* (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

Isn't it great that God no longer honors his name in just one place? We no longer enter his gates and courts through the temple in Jerusalem. Now wherever we assemble in the name of Jesus, God moves in our midst. The gates open for us. **God rewards all who diligently seek him!** We right now are both on earth and in the courts of heaven. We have God's eye and ear. Right now God is in our midst, and God is no silent observer. He is in our midst, in love and power! The Spirit of the Lord is here! Aren't you thankful?

*For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.* (Psalm 100:5, NIV)

The God who did good things for Israel, delivering them from their enemies, providing for their lives, claiming them as his children, continues that love for you and me. His faithfulness in taking down Goliath and delivering a nation through a teenager and healing the hopelessly broken bodies and spirits of ordinary people continues to our generation and to those who come after us.

**Do you believe this? Are you ready to shout for joy? Are you ready to sing songs of gladness? Are you responding appropriately to what God is doing for us all?**