

Daily Devotional, November 18, 2021 God, Thanks for Life!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalms 100:4-5 (NIV)

This Psalm invites everyone on the earth to shout for joy and worship God with gladness. It invites us to come to God with thankful hearts and praise on our lips. I recall a church member years ago who told me why she came back to the fellowship of the church after having drifted away as a young adult in her college years. She said, "I needed a place to help me express my gratitude and thanksgiving for all of the good things that have come into my life. How else could all of this been possible?"

A good question is "why?" That is, what makes God so worthy of our worship and praise? Psalm 100 is brief... but it has some very clear answers for us. It proclaims that God gave us life and we belong to God like sheep belong in a pasture. Not only did God call us into being and claim us as heaven's own, but the very character of the Lord gives us joy. The final verse of this Psalm reads, "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Do you hear the foundation of faith that we teach our children and grandchildren in these verses? "Jesus loves me this I know", or "God is great, God is good" or "God is so good to me." This great Psalm says it simply: The Lord is good! And God's love endures, is faithful, and enduring. It is love for us today and it is love for all who follow us. That's good news for all the world! Such good news makes us want to join with others in joyful worship and offering praise and thanksgiving.

Prayer: Lord God Almighty, we praise you that you are good and you love us with a steadfast and faithful love that endures forever. Help us know this truth and respond with joy, thanks and praise. In Christ's glory we pray, Amen.