

## GIVING GOD PRAISE AND THANKS

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. O come let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before our Maker!! For he is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His Hand (**Psalm 95:2-11**).

Have you ever fixed dinner for someone that actually *thank you* in advance for the meal you have prepared?? Well, I have, and I always say, "You had better wait until you taste it before you thank me!" There is something about the *thank you* beforehand, though, that gives me a warm feeling and makes me feel appreciated. Not sure why, maybe it is because no matter what the food tastes like, you know that person is grateful for the time and trouble it took to prepare it! I actually look forward to preparing a meal for them again, because I know they are thankful for it, no matter what!!

This scripture in **Psalm 95** got me to thinking – how do I approach my Lord and Savior when I go to Him in prayer?? Do I begin by asking, begging, pleading, whining?? Or do I enter into prayer by first thanking Him for all the wonderful and merciful things He has done in my life?? Hmm, I do not think so! As I pondered on this I went onto the next sentence, let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!! How strange to give thanks and praise to the Lord before we even ask, even stranger before we get an answer!!

Scripture goes on to say that our Lord is a GREAT GOD and a GREAT KING who is above all gods!! Just think, we can go to our Lord, whose name is above all names, that only wants our praise and thanksgiving!! Could it be that when we come to Him like this, He feels like I did?? Do we take advantage of the Lord of the universe and just expect him to be at our beck and call like a genie in a bottle?? Just rub three times and get your wishes taken care of?? Our Lord has His hand in the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains are His also, the sea and dry land He

created!!! Doesn't he deserve our honor and praise?? Doesn't He deserve our thanksgiving just for being ALMIGHTY GOD??

We have become so spoiled in the church. The spirit of entitlement has infiltrated our belief system and we have forgotten who we serve!! We even have the audacity to tell the Lord all we have done for Him!! **Matthew 7:21-23** says, “not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!”

Think on this a little while . . . it is a very sobering thought to think that we may do all we can ‘for the Lord’ and still not know Him! That is where the thanksgiving and the songs of praise come in!! We must truly worship Him in Spirit and in Truth in order to know Him **(John 4:24)!!**

**O come, let us worship and bow down!!!! Let us kneel before our Maker!!!** We are not entitled to anything on this earth!! We are not GOD!! We deserve nothing!! But our REDEEMER, our CREATOR, has seen fit, by the blood of His only Son, to give us life and life abundant!! He has promised that we will live in eternity with Him if we confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, repent and turn from our sins!!! What promise!! What a hope!! THANK YOU, LORD, FOR ALL THE MERCIES THAT ARE NEW EVERY MORNING!! THANK YOU, LORD, FOR MAKING ME WHOLE!!! THANK YOU, LORD, FOR GIVING US THE FREE GIFT THAT CAME WITH A GREAT COST, SO THAT WE MAY ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU!!!

Why wouldn't we bow down and worship our Lord?? Why wouldn't we kneel before our Maker, our King, our God?? For we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His Hand!! How glorious to be called *God's people*!! It's an honor, it is a privilege, and we should be overwhelmed with thankfulness, so much so that we cannot help but praise Him!! To sing and worship, and give him glory, even before we ask anything!!

I wonder if our Lord gets a warm feeling when we come to Him first with a thankful heart? I wonder if He feels appreciated and loved by us when we bow down and kneel before him in humble adoration?

I think we all need to give it a try . . . be thankful, sing songs of praise, worship and bow down, kneel before the King of Kings . . . and maybe, just maybe, what you wanted or thought you wanted will fade away in the light of His glory and love.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!! GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!!!**