

Session 2 KNOWING GOD: THE FOUNDATIONAL KEY TO JOY-FILLED LIVING

I. KNOWING GOD – SEE JESUS’ SMILE

- A. Knowing God involves you seeing His character, as revealed through His Son Jesus Christ. One of the most distinguishing features of His character is His beautiful warm smile that emanates from the joy He feels.
- B. Psalm 100 commands you to have a joyful heart as you enter into God's presence. Proverbs 15:13 tells us that "A joyful heart makes a cheerful face." What does a cheerful face do? It smiles! Where are you or I to get this joyful heart - this cheerful face? It comes from knowing God - knowing the One Who made you and cares for you - knowing the One Who is good and full of mercy and truth. (Ps. 100:3,5)
- C. As you begin to know these Truths with your mind and begin to experience them in your life, don't forget to see one of the most important expressions on Jesus' face -His smile. His smile will transform your life, filling it with joy.
1. Allow yourself to see Jesus smiling at you.
 2. Take a moment right now and look into Jesus' face and see Him smiling at you.
- D. Why am I making such a big deal about Jesus' smile, His joyful heart? Because Jesus did. And this is one of the main points of Psalm 100.
- John 15:11* He said, "**The things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**"
- E. Don't allow your image of God be tainted any longer by anything that portrays Jesus with a serious somber looking face. But rather, have your image of God be formed by the truth of God's Word.
- Hebrews 1:9* "**Your God has anointed You (Jesus) with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.**"
- F. Psalm 100 issues 7 commands with one command foundational to all the others and that is knowing God. Knowing God is vital for living life, the life God intended for you to live, a life filled with genuine joy – the joy of God Himself.
1. As you see God as He truly is, as clearly represented in His Son Jesus Christ, the burning desire of your heart will be to enter into His presence just like He instructs in Psalm 100.
 2. Expressions of thanksgiving and praise, blessing His name, will not be a duty for you to perform but will be a natural expression of your real delight in Him.
 3. Take a moment right now and imagine a place that you absolutely love going to. Realize that God's presence will provide you with more genuine pleasure and joy than anything else this world offers.
- G. A cry rises up from God's heart, beckoning you to:

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates, with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

H. Once you have tasted and seen God's goodness (Ps. 34:8), the cry of David's heart will become yours.

Psalm 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.

I. Why? *Psalm 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

II. OVERVIEW OF PSALM 100 – THE STRUCTURE

A. As you look at the structure of Psalm 100, you will clearly see that the primary key to genuine joy-filled living as a Believer in Christ is knowing God.

Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! 2 Serve the Lord with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing.

3 Know that the Lord, He is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

5 For the Lord is good;
His mercy is everlasting,
And His truth endures to all generations.

B. Structure of Psalm 100 – Watch the presentation of this structure online.

1. Psalm 100 has 4 stanzas. Mark the 4 stanzas in Psalm 100, using the spaces in between the verses above to help you.
2. **Stanza 1** - Verses 1 and 2: Joy-filled Acts
3. **Stanza 2** – Verse 3: Know Truths about God
4. **Stanza 3** – Verse 4: Joy-filled Acts
5. **Stanza 4** – Verse 5: Know Truths about God

C. In conclusion, stanzas 2 and 4 give you truths to know about God. Stanzas 1 and 3 give you joy-filled acts to do, which are the outflow of you truly know God. Worshipping God brings honor to His name and His salvation into your life and circumstances.

Psalm 50:23 "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders his way aright I shall show the salvation of God."

III. KNOWING AND ENJOYING GOD – PSALM 100

- A. Psalm 100 is not just about worshipping God within the 4 walls of the church, but rather worshipping God with your whole life, serving Him with gladness in all that you do.

Colossians 3:16-17 Let the word of Christ (Who God is) dwell in you....And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- B. You are called to bless the Lord at all times (Psalm 34:1) - doing His pleasure and serving Him with gladness.

Psalm 103:21 Bless the Lord all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.

Psalm 100:2 Serve the Lord with gladness.

- C. From the structure of Psalm 100 you can clearly see that the foundational key for “Joy-Filled Living,” the essence of this Psalm 100 series title, is knowing God.

1. The basis for you knowing God is through the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit.
2. The more you know God, the more genuine joy you will feel.
3. The more know God and feel His joy, the more you will follow God’s commands in Psalm 100, which is basically God’s prescription for joy-filled living.

- D. Psalm 100 beckons you to “Know God and Enjoy God.” The destruction you see all around you in this world is people not knowing “Who God is.”

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

- E. Psalm 100 calls you to “know” 7 basic truths about God as seen in verse 3 and 5. The verb “know” in Hebrew is “yada,” which means to know personally with experience. This same word for knowing was used in the Bible to express the close relationship of a husband has with his wife.

Genesis 4:1 Now Adam knew (yada) Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain...

- F. Prayer to “Know God” – Ephesians 1:15-21. Make this your prayer.

Ephesians 1:17 ... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.

IV. WHAT DOES PSALM 100 CALL YOU TO KNOW ABOUT GOD

- A. #1 - You are called to “know that the LORD is God,” the One Who rules over all and Who desires to be the Lord over your life.

Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD, He is God.

1. The “LORD,” when it is capitalized in our Bibles, is translating the Hebrew name “Yahweh” or “Jehovah.” This name refers to the covenant keeping God through which the Messiah was promised.

2. “LORD” also refers to the only true God, the One Who is over all authorities and powers.

Psalm 95:3 For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods.

3. Jesus Christ is Lord; He was given all authority and power in heaven and on earth. (Mt. 28:18)

Ephesians 1:20-21 ... seated Him (Jesus Christ) at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion...

4. Joy-filled living begins when you submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. And, your joy is made full as you allow Him to rule (to be Lord) over every area of your life, bowing your knee and submitting to His authority – saying what He says and doing what He does. (John 15:9-11)

Philippians 2:10-11 ...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth...

B. #2 - You are called to know that God made you and that you belong to Him.

Psalm 100:3 Know thatIt is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.

Psalm 100:3 Know that...It is He Who has made us, and we belong to Him. (GNT)

1. When God made mankind, He made us in His image.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

2. Jesus Christ was with God, when you were made. God had the plan and Jesus spoke God’s plan into existence.

John 1:1-3 ... All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

3. When you received Jesus Christ into your heart, God made you into a new creation in Christ; He restored you back into His image and likeness. This is the good news of great joy; this is the good news of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Luke 2:10-11 ...for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy... who is Christ the Lord.

4. Knowing and living from your true identity in Christ releases genuine joy. Why? Because in Christ you have been anointed with the same oil of gladness that Jesus was anointed with.

Hebrews 1:9 Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

5. The more you know the truth of Who God is as revealed in His Son Jesus Christ, the more you will know who you are in Christ. And, this experiential knowledge will cause much joy and rejoicing in your life. In fact, you will find yourself smiling just like Jesus.

6. It is your privilege and honor to live from the highest reality in your life, the reality of Who Jesus is, to live and walk in the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

- C. #3 - You are called to know that “we are His people” and that God, as seen through His Son Jesus Christ, is your good and great Shepherd.

Psalm 100:3 Know that... We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

John 10:11 Jesus said, **“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”**

1. God and His Son Jesus through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit will take great care of you. Jesus not only laid down His life for you, but He will supply your needs, taking good care of you. (Romans 8:31-32)
2. Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, will equip you with everything that you will need to do His will.

Hebrew 13:20-21 that the great Shepherd of the sheep ... make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight.

3. “We are His people.” Knowing and living in the reality that “you belong to God” – “that you are His own special people” will give you confidence to joyfully face all that opposes your God-given destiny in life. (I Peter 2:9-10)

- D. Psalm 100:5 declares God’s self-revealed name, emphasizing 3 description of His character.

Psalm 100:5 For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures to all generations.

Exodus 34:6 The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...

1. #4 – **“For the Lord is good.”** Good in this verse comes from a Hebrew word “towb” which means “good” but as “cheerful, glad, happy, favored, joyful, loving, merry, pleasant, and delightful.” Jesus perfectly represented God; He was good and He went about doing good. (Acts 10:38)

Hebrews 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

2. #5 & 6 – **“The Lord’s mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”** The word mercy comes from the Hebrew word “hesed.” Hesed is the core reality of Who God is. God’s character as revealed in Psalm 100:5 were clearly seen fulfilled in Jesus’ life.

Psalm 103: 5 His mercy is everlasting. And His truth endures to all generations.

John 1:14 And the Word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us....full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.