Praising God

**WITH A GLAD THANKFUL HEART**

I want to start this Newsletter out by saying – I don’t ever want to lose a Glad & Thankful heart for all God has done and given! HE HAS SURELY BEEN GOOD TO ME!

**Ps 106: 1** – Praise ye the Lord: O give Thanks unto the Lord; for He is Good.

I want to ask you – Does the Lord really desire you to Praise and Worship Him? Does He crave Worship from the creatures He made and gave life to? Does our wonderful Lord earnestly desire for you to come to His house with a heart full of Gladness and Rejoice in His presence? Children, after all God has done for us, and the many times He’s Blessed us, He looks into our hearts to see if there is Gratitude and Thankfulness. Our Blessed Lord is just waiting for you to come to Him with your Heart full of Love that will express itself in true Worship and Praise. He longs to hear you sing unto Him and for your hands to be lifted up to Bless His Holy name.

 For our Scripture reading:

**Ps.100**: **1** Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2: **Serve the LORD with Gladness**: come before His presence with singing. 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. 4: Enter into His gates with **Thanksgiving**, and into His courts with **Praise**: be **Thankful** unto Him, and **Bless** His Name. 5: For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.

 I believe we are living in an hour when the devil, the enemy of our soul has stolen the Praise of God’s people. It seems we have lost the Art of true Worship. Gladness is missing. The excitement is all but gone! More and more as time goes by, I’m afraid the words “Thank You” have slipped from our vocabulary. We are surely living in a time when hearts have grown cold as the Holy Ghost warned of over 2,000 years ago, saying because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold and we would live in an Unthankful generation right before Jesus returns for His church. The precious heart felt words Thank you have almost gone missing from the lips of our society. You hardly ever hear the words “Thank you, I love you and appreciate you!” These words can only come from a heart that is grateful for all that God has done and given – a heart that realizes the mercies of the Lord and can look back over life and see the hand of providence that has blessed and touched!

**WHERE IS THE GLADNESS?**

 If we are to serve the Lord with Gladness, then what does it mean? The definition means – to be cheerful and merry. To enliven and be excited in heart with Joy. O children, there is something missing in our lives and in our Church services. I remember when I first gave my heart and life to the Lord and was genuinely saved, the saints of God gathered with enthusiasm and excitement to worship. They sang with exuberant hearts. Their joy was overflowing. The songs and praises rang out. There was a shout of victory in the house. They were so happy to be saved. The Glory of God shone as the presence of the Lord filled the Place. I saw precious brothers and sisters shouting. The Holy Spirit of God would sweep over the crowd in waves. There was such love! The Spirit fell like rain and filled thirsty hearts. The saints put everything they had into their worship. It was so beautiful to see the tears of Joy and the faces lit up, beaming with Love for God. But now days, that Beautiful art of Worship is missing. The devil has stolen it. People are so bogged and weighed down with the cares of this life, its problems, they do not rejoice anymore. Somehow this pleasure filled world has captured their attention and robbed Gods praise.

**A MOST TREASURED ART**

 I read an article in the newspaper several years ago where someone broke into a museum. They evaded the security system and stole a famous ancient painting from the wall that was worth 2 million dollars. The art was a work of a professional artist. The next morning when the museum was opened, the keepers and staff was shocked when they saw an empty place where this beautiful work of Art once hung and graced the wall. It was now gone! It was the most valued piece of art work in the whole museum. Now it was missing. Bulletins were sent out everywhere. “If anyone knows the whereabouts of this most valuable beautiful picture, please contact us. We are offering a great reward. Please, we want it back! The place is just not the same anymore without it.”

**WHERE ARE THE GLAD HEARTS?**

 Listen, there can never be real Heart felt Praise unless it comes from a Glad Heart. Praise and Worship springs and flows from a thankful Heart. How many of you are Glad and joyful for what God has done? When you are Glad, it makes a cheerful countenance. When the voice of Gladness is heard, it will bring cheer to a dry lonely desert. The Lord would do more for us if we would joyfully Praise Him for all He has done for us already! Our unthankful generation has forgotten the many blessings and good things that God has given them in life.

Did you know that for Thanksgiving this year, 46 million Turkey’s were prepared and eaten? 24 million pounds of Ham was bought, prepared and served? 250 million lbs of potatoes were fixed for meals? 30 million pies satisfied the mouths of hundreds of thousands craving sweets at the dinner table. 97 million dollars was spent on packaged mixes for breads, cakes and cookies. O my precious Jesus, how good you have been to us!! Bless your Holy Name!! Truly this nation has been blessed from the hand of God by the bounties of Heaven, but yet she has forgotten God who had made her great and become ungrateful in her sins. O God have mercy!!

Many have forgotten those times when God came through for them, how He saved and healed, delivered and answered prayer, how He supplied their needs. It’s a sad fact, many Church services are so dry anymore. There is no life flowing in them the way it used to. It’s hard to hear a joyful song! Where are the happy testimonies? Where are the Glad hearts? It used to be people could hardly wait to come to Church and have a good time in the Lord – just to go and get a blessing and feel His Divine sweet presence. O Lord would you restore our hearts and the Joy of thy Salvation?

 Rest assured, whenever Gladness is gone in a person’s heart, a spirit of depression and Sadness will take its place. The reason that many of God’s people are empty, dull, depressed and dry is because they fail to praise and worship the Lord with a Thankful heart! When God saved and delivered me from my sins, He made me Glad! Thank God, I was one happy young man! I can tell you that a Glad Heart will look around and find the good. Its gaze is always upward to the giver of life. It knows by experience that if it looks at all the Bad that’s around it, then sadness enters the soul. And when sadness enters, it brings depression and gloom. It takes the joy out of living. Our society is filled with it because people have quit acknowledging God’s Goodness and being thankful! Can I tell you where you’ll find Gods Blessing and the Holy Ghost abiding and working? It’s in a Glad and Thankful heart. A Glad heart looks at its surroundings and says – I know things are bad, but it could be a lot worse. I may have my trials, but thank God I’m on my way to Heaven to a place far better and I’m going to Praise my Lord for what I have, for what I am able to do and for what He has so graciously done for me! I’m not as bad off as millions are in this troubled world. Many have nothing. Their lives are a wreck mentally and physically. Their souls are empty and aimless. They are full of trouble. They’re lost without Hope and without God. Can I tell you children -- **Good things come when you willingly praise Him with all your heart. God blesses Glad hearts**.

 Can you say to Him now -- Lord, I really thank you for what I have. I thank you for all you have done. I praise you with my whole heart. I’m so thankful for the Hope I have. I’m glad I’ve got you! You’re my Saviour and my best friend. You are my keeper. You are everything to me. Bless your Holy name.

 Many I know use to have Glad hearts that was like the Psalmist David when he said – I was Glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord. But now they have lost their desire. The world with its troubles, lusts and cares have seemed to take the Love for God away. So many things have come between their soul and the Lord and hindered them to the point they no longer have a desire to serve and Worship their maker.

**WHERE’S THE DELIGHT FOR SERVICE?**

 **PS. 37:4** – Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

When you have a delight in serving God, there will be a witness of His presence and acceptance in you. There will be a witness in your heart, and others will see and feel the presence of God in your life! Many serve God with a sad countenance, it’s not a delight to them anymore. They bring a form of homage to church with them, just an obligation to be there but the real life is missing. They appear to be hollow and empty like a sea shell. Just to think, the Lord does not have any slaves in Heaven. His servants are dressed in the most beautiful garments and their Praise is comely. The Angels serve Him with joyful songs. They never sigh or complain or ever say one to another – “Do we have to worship the Lord and Praise Him?” Remember, the Lord looks on the heart and if He sees that we serve Him with drudgery and not because we love Him, He can’t accept our offering. Our Praise will be no good!

 Service that is given with cheerfulness is true and genuine. Cheerfulness and Gladness breaking forth into Praise is the key to overcoming. The Bible says - the joy of the Lord is our strength.

 Did you know when you have a glad heart your difficulties are not near as hard to bear. I want to ask us --- do we serve the Lord with Gladness? Let’s show this world who thinks our religion is dull that it is to us a Delight and a Joy to serve our Lord. Let our Gladness show others that we serve a wonderful Master --- Our God is real and He is Good! Amen! He inhabits the Praises of His people. He comes down and dwells in our praise. Hallelujah! Many battles have been won simply by Praise alone. Your enemies cannot stand up to true heart felt Praise. Gods Divine presence fills the room where Praises go up. It will drive demons away, the devil will have to flee. Do you want your heart to be filled? Then Praise Him!! Listen to the Bibles’ divine exhortation to us.

**Ps. 113:1** – Praise ye the Lord **vs. 3** – From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lords name is to be praised.

Notice how the Scripture reads: **Ps. 66:4** – All the earth (**Shall)** Worship thee, and (shall sing) unto thee; they (shall) sing to thy name. (It’s not an option.)

**Ps. 145:10** – All thy works **Shall** Praise thee O Lord, and thy saints **Shall** Bless thee.

Gods people should be a happy people. All of Gods creation in nature praises its maker in their own unique way.

**Ps. 148:** Listen to the sacred Holy Ghost inspired scripture: Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights. Praise Him all ye Angels: Praise Him all ye hosts. Praise Him sun and moon. Praise Him all ye stars of light. Praise the Lord from the earth. Praise Him ye mountains and all hills and fruitful trees. Praise the Lord ye beasts and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl. Praise Him kings of the earth and all people, both young and old and children. Praise ye the Lord in the congregation of saints. Sing praise unto Him with the timbrel and the harp, for the Lord taketh pleasure in His people. Let the saints be joyful in the Lord. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth. Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him for His mighty acts. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord!! If we hold our praise, the rocks will cry out. I refuse to let nature out-praise me, a child of God redeemed by the Blood!!

**Ps. 149**: For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people. He will beautify the meek with Salvation. Let the saints **be joyful.** Let the high praises of God be in their mouth.

**Ps. 150:** Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord!!

**GODS CREATION PRAISES HIM**

 Scientists have now discovered through their high-powered instruments that all the heavenly bodies – each and every planet and star in our solar system give off a sound. Each of them have their own unique sound and tone that is different from all the others. These musical tones emanate from them as they make their circuit traveling through our universe, and to think there are billions of stars in our Milky Way galaxy, God has named them everyone and they are all Praising God with their own unique voice!! When God flung them into their orbit by the span of His hand, they all went to singing and praising Him!! HALLELUJAH JESUS!! Our Bible is **accurate** and it is **true**! Glory to God! Our Creator and His creation is awesome!

**Isa. 48:13** - Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. (What about man? What about the Church and the saints of the living God?)

 Can you imagine all the sounds in nature? Right now, if you could flip a switch and turn off every man made sound -- all the sounds of labor and machinery would be quiet, all traffic and engines would stop, and every voice of man would hush in silence, then you could hear Gods creation and nature praising Him! They are busy day and night uttering their own voice of praise to their Creator. **Ps. 96:12** – Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice. Ps**. 98:4 –** Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth. **Vs. 7** - Let the sea roar and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein **Vs. 8**- Let the floods (the waves) clap their hands: Let the Hills be joyful together. The seas and oceans are never quiet. The waves swell with another Praise and release their sound as they come ashore. Day and night the ocean’s waters crash into the rocks with another loud Praise. Through the country sides the little brooks and streams Sing as the lifegiving waters flow over the rocks. There’s nothing like hearing the frogs in the spring singing their love songs in their low estate, down in the ditch in the pool of water next to my mailbox. I hear the distant sound of a woodpecker echoing from the woods across the creek, the flutter of hummingbird wings as they happily drink from the sweetness of my feeders. My Mocking birds, Robins and Cardinals with their heads lifted and little beaks opened, deep from within their breasts pour forth their praise of life perched on the limbs and wires around my home.

 There is a bird of the thrush family found in the South of Ireland, called “The Storm Thrush,” This bird loves storms. When storms of rain and wind rolls in, it will fly to the top of the highest tree and there on its swaying perch it pours out its beautiful song.

O little bird, why are you so happy? A man tells how he was out walking and saw where a storm had come blowing through and saw a little bird’s nest lying on the ground that the wind had torn from the tree. It had its dream that God put in it and it had labored painstakingly to build its little home to raise its little ones. But now it was all in shambles. He said, “I stood there feeling sorry for the little bird until I heard chattering in the trees. I looked up and the little bird was busy building back its home happily singing as it worked. Its plans were only hindered temporarily. Yes, it was shaken, but in its little heart was the desire to go on and not give up!

 Children, the storms of life will come but I believe we can sing and praise our Wonderful Lord through it all. All of nature praises its Maker, can’t we? God’s creation can teach us something if we will observe and listen.

**THE PSALMIST DAVID**

**PRAISES GOD**

 The Psalmist David had his storms. He had his ups and downs, a man on the run, hated and persecuted. Many were his enemies. He had his seasons of trial and sorrow. Many were his afflictions. Many times he cried, he questioned, he prayed and wondered. He went through long lonely nights, surrounded by flood waters of ungodly men. A man of many battles. Many times the sun was down in Davids life and he couldn’t see the stars. But in the midst of his darkest times, you could hear him cry – “In the Lord put I my trust. My God gives me songs in the night.”

 Children, we live in a changing environment. Nothing stays the same. Life is made up of gains and losses, blessings and crosses. I once pulled into my plant parking lot early one morning. As I was getting out of the truck to make my way to the gate, I heard a flock of geese overhead. I looked up into the sky and there they were in a beautiful V form heading South to a distant land honking and singing as they went. It was their way of Praising their Creator. You put it in us Lord –We are just passing through life on our way to a better climate. We are going to sing and Praise as we go. I felt like they were saying to me – we are heading home and we’re singing as we go, how about you?

 Visit the forests and woods. Look up into the trees. Listen to the sound as the breath of God in the wind passes through. **Isaiah 55:12** – All the trees of the field shall clap their hands. The leaves clap their hands as the wind blows. You can hear the whistling as the life giving air passes through the branches. O for the wind of Gods Spirit to blow upon us once again as we Praise Him with a Glad cheerful heart! You can’t tell me that Creation doesn’t Praise the Lord. They communicate in their own way and in their own language. They are not silent nor ashamed. They have nothing to hold them back from doing what God put within them. Where does that leave us? Lord, would you restore our joy and our praise!! All I want for this Christmas dear Jesus is a glad, rejoicing, happy Heart of Gladness and PRAISE!!

I took my pen and with tears I wrote a poem that God gave me and I want to share:

*Lord, I’m Thankful for my home and a good place to sleep; I praise you for my food and the shoes on my feet. I’m not wealthy or rich but I’m clothed and I’m fed; My Lord walks beside me, by His hand I am led. If I should count all my Blessings and name them one by one, O the Wonder of the things for me God has done. I thank Him for my life, the strength He gives me each day; He got me up this morning and started me on my way. I praise and thank Him for my health, I can get up and walk; I got my right mind, I can sing and I can talk. I thank Him for the day He saved my soul from sin; He forgave me and cleansed me and put His love deep within. If you wonder why I’m happy, why I feel so Glad and Free; I’m really living now since I met Christ at Calvary. This world no longer interests me with its pleasures and its gold; I’m rejoicing in Jesus, I’ve got treasures untold. I’ve had my blessings on the mountain, I’ve had my trials in valleys below; My God has been good and Faithful, this I truly know! My body is much older now, I’m not young like I use to be; But I’m still running toward that city that lies beyond the crystal sea. I’ve served my God many years now, I’m closer to Heaven than I ever been; I want to hear my Saviour say - “Well done my Child enter in”! I’m Thankful for your mercy dear Jesus, for loving and saving me; Soon I will lift my hands in Heaven and I will Praise you for All Eternity!!*

Written By: Tommy Romans

In closing: Are you still praying and believing, trusting and serving? Are you Glad and Thankful in heart and singing God’s praise? Children, our battles are almost over, the night is far spent, the eternal day is at hand. Glory to God in the Highest, Jesus is coming. Hold on until the day dawn and the Day Star arise in your hearts!At the sound of the Trumpet, we shall be called away and forever be with the Lord! May God Bless all my readers!!