

## “Oh, Give Thanks!” Psalm 107

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Psalm 100

Today I would like to take a moment and talk about what it means to be thankful. Not only is it a response to what God has already done for us but a command that we need to obey.

Ephesians 5:17-21

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Today we are going to be looking at a psalm that deals with thanking God in His faithfulness to see us through every situation. Not all psalms are written the way this one is, but it is a lot like our modern-day songs. We will see an intro, then four

verses with a chorus and then a bridge and an outro. The context of this Psalm is most likely post-exilic, meaning it was written after the 70 years captivity to remember God's faithfulness to sustain them and see them through all their difficulties. The Psalmist is unnamed as far as we know and brings us four specific trials that they had experienced, all of which God saw them through. The chorus is a cry that all men would give thanks to God and His works toward us. Let's dig in...

## Psalm 107:1-3

### The Intro

The phrase "Oh, Give Thanks" is the Hebrew word "yada" and carries the idea of "To Hold out the Hand" or "To Throw a stone or an arrow" The concept translated thanks and praise in the Psalms is to lift your hands to God in praise and worship. In other words, being thankful is an act of worship.

## 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good

and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

If you have been redeemed, then you need to say so. And we will see that it is not just after the fact but during it too.

Psalm 107:4-9

1<sup>st</sup> Verse and Chorus

“The Desert”

Maybe you feel that way today, wandering around in the desert. If you have been walking with the Lord for any length of time you have been there. It seems the days of refreshment have gone, and you seem to be missing that closeness to the Lord you had at the beginning. But what happened? Did He move? No. Often times we go through these deserts because we start thinking this is our home. But we should be glad and thankful that we are uncomfortable in this world. This is not our home...

John 17:14-17

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of

the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Maybe your desert time is to get you to remember this is not your home. God desires your worship and devotion and will do anything to get your attention. The best thing to do in those times is to remember...

Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.

If your love for the Lord has faltered, you will start to love the things of the world again and God will dry up the way to get you to remember Who is the One that provides for you.

Jeremiah 2:13

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

And of course if you need to get back on course:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

But maybe it's not the desert path you are in but stuck in a prison...

Psalms 107:10-16

2<sup>nd</sup> Verse and Chorus

“The Prison”

I know the feeling. That light is gone and everywhere you go you seem to be in darkness. In this case it was their own sin that brought about this time. But this again is self-brought. Jesus has broken the chains that have bound us and broke us free from them. We put ourselves back in prison by our own stupidity.

Isaiah 61:1-2

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

How do we break free? Remember that God has set us free and get back to Him and be thankful. He is the way out. If you have found yourself there you can cry out to Him today!

But maybe it’s not the desert wanderings or the prison cell but the affliction of emotional distress you find yourself in...

Psalms 107:17-22

3<sup>rd</sup> Verse and Chorus

“The Afflicted”

Some of us get into a rut of dwelling on our past mistakes of repeating them and they have us emotionally vexed. We feel like we are going to die from distress and wonder what happened. But noticed what God sent them when they cried out to Him? His word!

Psalms 119:71

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:50

This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.

You need help in your affliction? Go to the word! It is the only way find your way back to a heart of thanksgiving. But finally, what about storms. They are coming and there is no escaping them!

Psalm 107:23-32

4<sup>th</sup> Verse and Chorus

“The Storm”

This final one is not caused by our own stupidity but just an unfortunate thing that could happen to any of us. I know the thought of your heart, “Why Me?”. We have all been brought to that point of where we just could not take it anymore. We are at our wits end! Guess what you are in good company...

## 2 Corinthians 1:8-9

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.

## Mark 4:38-40

But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”

Now the song begins it finish with a bridge...

## Psalms 107:33-42

The Bridge

“The Sovereignty of God”

Why would God allow this or that to happen? No one but God has that answer. We are just supposed to trust Him through it and be thankful that we can.



## Romans 8:28-29

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

## 1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ

## James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

When we understand these things, we can be thankful to God in every and all situations. He has a plan and you can trust in it to be fulfilled.

The Outro:

Whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

Psalms 107:43

When you and I understand the lovingkindness of the Lord we can be and will be thankful in all things. His love for you will never change even if the trouble we are in is our own making. Did you know that He is thankful over you?

Zephaniah 3:16-17

In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

So, if He is doing that for His people, we need to do that for Him in and through and for all things.

Psalms 107:8,15,21,31

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!