Enter With a Grateful Heart

Today's Reading: Psalm 100:4–5 | Audio: Day 1

> *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*
>
> — Psalm 100:4–5 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

Gratitude is not just a feeling that arrives when life is easy. Gratitude is a posture we choose. The psalmist does not say, "Enter His gates when you feel thankful," or "Come into His presence when everything is going well." He says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving."

That means thanksgiving is not optional. It is not the decoration around worship. It is the doorway into worship. Before we bring our requests, before we ask God to fix what is broken, before we even begin to praise Him for who He is, we pause and remember what He has already done.

Sometimes we come to God carrying the weight of what is unfinished—the prayer that has not been answered yet, the situation that still feels heavy, the door that still has not opened. Those things are real. But thanksgiving helps us remember that the present struggle is not the whole story.

You may be facing something difficult today, but this is not the first time God has kept you. It is not the first time He has sustained you, or made a way when you could not see one. Think about the moments when you did not know how you were going to make it, but somehow you made it. Think about the times your heart was overwhelmed and God kept your mind. Think about the moments you were weak and His grace carried you.

Thanksgiving looks back and says, "Lord, You were faithful then." And praise rises up and says, "Lord, You are faithful now." So today, do not wait until everything feels right to thank God. Begin where you are. Open your mouth. Speak His faithfulness out loud. Let the memories of His goodness become the fuel that carries you through the gate.

> **THE DOORWAY IS NOT THE DECOR**
>
> Not the music. • Not the room. • Not the perfect atmosphere. • Thanksgiving.

DAY 1 • JOURNAL & RESPONSE

REFLECT

1. *What specific moment in your life, if you sat with it long enough, would produce real, unforced gratitude toward God?*

2. *What has God already done that you have stopped naming?*

RESPOND: TODAY'S PRACTICAL STEP

- Before you ask God for anything today, spend five minutes naming what He has already done.
- Write it down if you can. Speak it aloud.
- Let thanksgiving be the beginning of your time with Him.

What He has already done:

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your goodness. Thank You for Your mercy that has never run out. Thank You for the ways You have sustained us, even when we did not fully understand what You were doing. Forgive us for rushing into Your presence with complaints before gratitude. Teach us to enter Your gates with thanksgiving. Open our eyes to the evidence of Your faithfulness all around us. Let gratitude become the posture of our hearts today. In Jesus' name, amen.

My own prayer:

REMEMBER THIS

Thanksgiving is the door.

Going Deeper: Psalm 103:1–5 • Colossians 3:15–17 • Lamentations 3:22–23

This devotional is a tool for reflection, not a substitute for pastoral care or professional counseling. If what surfaces feels too heavy to carry alone, please reach out to a pastor or a trusted, qualified counselor at New Life Tabernacle Carrollwood.