

**Recap of 1/12/25 message by Pastor Steve Plank
(Psalm 100, "Thank You God"):**

Focusing on ourselves is a result of sin, specifically pride which leads to selfishness and a sense of entitlement. This results in us being upset with things we don't have instead of being content and grateful for the many wonderful things we do have. Unfortunately, this cycle invariably leads to melancholy and often reinforces our focus on the wrong things as we try to lift ourselves out of the gloom.

Psalm 100 shifts our focus to its proper place, God. This Psalm reminds us that God is the center of our lives and helps us realize the joy in Him. He created us, cares for us, and protects us. He is forever loving and faithful. We are given commands such as "shout joyfully," "serve with gladness," "come before Him with joyful singing," "know that He is creator," "give thanks", "praise" and "bless His name."

In our Christian context, we know that God also, in Christ Jesus, became sin for us so that we become the righteousness of God in Him. With that in mind, how can we not be thankful people. No possible circumstance in this life can separate us from God's love nor deprive us of eternal life.

This Psalm along with other Psalms of praise and thanksgiving (Psalms 95, 100, 117, 138, 146-150) are welcome and needed reminders for us that God is always good, and we exist for His glory. Whenever you are feeling down or separated from God, read through these Psalms. They are guaranteed to change your sorrow into thanksgiving. You too will rejoice with the Apostles that you are counted worthy to suffer for His name (Ac 6:12-42). You too will find the joy in living for and with God. You too will fully realize that to "live is Christ and to die is gain." (Php 1:21)