

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. 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. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

† ***We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.***

Just think about that for a minute. As a Christian we are a part of God's flock. And if you think about it, who out of God's flock, would you have serving the Lord with you? Maybe someone well educated, or someone with vast knowledge of the bible, or someone who has a great speaking or singing voice, or maybe someone who looks good, or someone with lots of money? We could go on and on with those we think would serve the Lord the best and that we would want to help us out as we serve the Lord. However, there is another part to this verse which says.

† ***It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.***

God made each and every one of us uniquely just how He wants us to be. And God does not use us because of our great abilities, but rather because of our willing heart to serve, or sometimes we say, because of our availability. So looking at the examples of people we may want to serve with us, they may have great abilities but no real heart to serve the Lord, and if you really don't have a heart to do something, then it usually falls flat on its face.

As a musician and song writer, there are times I think, "*I need to go work on some music*" yet my heart is not really in it. What usually happens is, I will go and sit there and play around a little on the keyboards or computer, but it's just not happening because even though I may have the skill to write or record music, if my heart is not in it, and more important, if the Holy Spirit is not guiding me, I get frustrated and just walk away.

Or maybe there are times we don't feel we are qualified to do something, even though we feel the Lord has called us to do it. I like what pastor Chuck Smith used to say, "*God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called.*" Which simply means, we are God's vessels, and as a vessel we come before the Lord empty, which is a good thing, because you can't pour into a vessel that is already full (usually of itself). So as we come before the Lord, empty, but willing to be used, He will pour into us so that we can pour into others.

But if we are full of ourselves (like some of those who have great abilities are) we are pouring ourselves into others, and not the Lord.

So remember to “*enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise*” for who you are, and for those that the Lord has put in your life to help you out. They may not be the smartest, richest, or best looking or they may even stutter or even sing off key, but if they have a heart to serve the Lord then “*Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good*” and “*Serve the LORD with gladness.*”

- † **Psalm 100:2** *Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.*
- † **Romans 15:32 (NLT2)** *Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other.*
- † **1 Peter 5:2-4 (NLT2)** *Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.*