

ACCESSING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Apostle Mark Kauffman

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before His presence with singing. 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. 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 100:1-5

“Enter with the password: Thank You!”

That is how the Message Bible reads Psalms 100:4. “Thank You” is the password and the passport; it gives us access to God. Thanksgiving, praise and worship connect us to heavenly things. It gives us the right to come into God’s presence. In the Old Testament, they had to bring a sacrifice to access God. They had to bring an animal offering be it a lamb, a bullock or a goat. They had to bring something that would give them access into God’s presence. Now in the New Covenant, because Jesus is the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world His blood gives us access, but what gives us the right based upon His blood, is thanksgiving, praise and worship.

Jesus taught us to pray, *“Our Father which are in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name.”* One of the things that He is teaching us in this scripture is how to address God properly. You cannot access God properly if you do not address Him properly. Most people do not know how to address God. What we do when we address Him, most of the time, is we cry out in a panic “Oh, God help me!” that will not give you access to God. It is not how loud or soft that you pray, or how long you pray, but how we address Him.

Every man and woman of God in the scriptures who has had their prayers answered entered the presence of God after this protocol. They would begin to glorify Him with praise. They would give God thanks. Any time that a battle was won, before they would fight, they would go out before their enemies and begin to worship God. They would declare, *“The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever!”* They would not whine or moan, complain and grumble about what the enemy was doing. They were not focused on the problem but their thanksgiving and praise got them focused on who God was and God responds to those kinds of praises.

Let us take a look at the ten lepers. *“As Jesus is entering into a certain village, there met Him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” Luke 17:12 & 13, they cried*

out “Master”. In those days when you called someone a master, it was a person of great authority, someone who could do something about a situation, they had mastered circumstances. They learned to master this world they live in. Therefore, to call a person master was one of the highest terms that you could describe or declare over someone.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks...”

Luke 17:15, 16

Thank you Only one came back and said thank you to the Lord. He is addressing Jesus as Lord and Master. Jesus says to the man *“your faith has made you whole.”* Nine other men received a healing but the man who gave thanksgiving and praise was made whole. Wholeness speaks of spirit, soul, and body. The nine men were healed of the leprosy, God stopped the leprosy; He put an end to the sickness. That is good, but they would live the rest of their lives with no nose, ears or lips maybe even some fingers and toes missing also. But the man who came back and was thankful and gave praise, he was made whole. I believe all of his fingers and toes, his ears, nose and lips all grew back!



What God wants to do for this generation is make us whole. God wants to restore years that we have lost. He wants to return the things that have been stolen from us.

What the canker worm, the locust and the caterpillar have eaten from us God is giving it back. God is also restoring to us time and treasure. Some of you have lost time with your children because of sin or sickness, God says if we will give Him thanksgiving and we will glorify Him He will redeem time.

“And I will add unto thy days fifteen years...” 2 Kings 20:6a

Hezekiah prayed and sought God that He would heal him. The Bible reads that Hezekiah had *“turned to the wall.”* He turned from his situations. He turned from his sorrow. He turned from his sickness and turned to the wall. The wall speaks of a place of intercession and prayer. Hezekiah addressed God. God let Hezekiah know that He heard his prayers and his thanksgiving. God turned Hezekiah’s situation around for him. Not only did God heal Hezekiah but He also added 15 years to his life.

“O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. To Him who alone doeth great wonders: for His mercy endureth forever.”

Psalms 36:1 & 4

The Psalmist always connects giving thanks with mighty works. He also always admonishes the Lord for who He is. Nothing gets the attention of the Lord like our thanksgiving. When you get into God’s presence and you begin to thank Him for who He is, it will begin to elevate you above your stress level. It will take you above your circumstances. Quit worrying and being frustrated. Stop fretting about everything. And start telling God, Lord you

are so good and you are bigger than my circumstances. Begin to magnify and exalt God. To magnify God you make Him bigger than your circumstances. To exalt God you lift Him higher than every name that is named. Exalt God higher than sickness and disease. Exalt Him higher than all of your sorrow and pain. Make God big in your life. When you make God big you make other things small in your life. It is faith in action. You are entrusting God to deal with situations even before you see Him deal with those things. So while you are waiting for God's answer keep praising Him and keep thanking Him.

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice, pray and give thanks. Notice prayer is sandwiched in the middle of rejoice and give thanks. Which means you cannot pray without rejoicing and giving thanks. The Psalmist tells us to rejoice evermore. We are to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in everything. He does not say to give thanks *for* everything because there are times that we will have things going on in our lives that we are not thankful for, but we can thank Him for who He is. You can always thank God for who He is in spite of where you are. That is why the Bible says, *“Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice.”* The *“again”*, means to do it again! Thanksgiving focuses our heart on the Lord and acknowledges His goodness and mercy. It gets our focus off the problem and on to looking unto Jesus who is the Author and the Finisher of our faith.

Thanksgiving gets our eyes off the lack, the pain and sickness and gets our eyes on The Solution.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18-20



When you enter into God's presence, it is because you're praising and worshiping Him. You can be in your car driving down the road and be in the Most Holy Place because of the

worship and praise that you are giving God. You always have something to thank God about. The fact that you are breathing gives you a reason to praise God. *“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.”* The day that you quit praising and thanking God is the day that you may die. Because, *“the dead do not praise the LORD neither any that go down into silence.”* As long as you have praise in your mouth death cannot get a hold of you. Even if you get a negative report from the doctor, you walk out of that office with a hallelujah and praise on your lips, as you begin to do that you shake death off of you. You can shake yourself from sickness, poverty and death all in your praise.

Praise, thanksgiving, rejoicing and worship are keys for you to access the presence of God. It is the key of David. Just in your thanksgiving and praise, I did not say your pleading and begging, or your trying to

twist God's arm. But in your declaring His righteousness and goodness it will open up doors no man can shut. It will shut doors that no one can open. Your praise will slam the door in the face of your enemies your thanksgiving will slam the door in the face of poverty and disease. God wants you to come into His presence, and you have the keys that give you access to Him. Now use them He is waiting.



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Being passionately involved in both ministry and business has brought a unique ability to equip and train marketplace ministers to link the idea of prosperity to a God given plan that will advance the kingdom of God. He also oversees Impacting the Nations Network which oversees 100 pastors and churches based in the nation of India. Kauffman is the international editor of the VACHANACHOSHANAM Newspaper in India. This newspaper not only spreads the message of the kingdom in India but throughout Asia and the Middle East.

Through the power of God and word of knowledge he sees many miraculous healings and deliverances as he ministers the Gospel of the Kingdom. His heart is to see the body demonstrate the nature and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ thus fulfilling their destiny.

He is married to Jill Kauffman, who pastors along with him, and has 3 sons Anthony, Ryan & Christian Mark and a granddaughter, Alexandra Irene.