

As I wait for Thanksgiving Day to arrive I find myself thinking about one of my favorite chapters in the Bible, Psalm 100. We are admonished in this Psalm of praise to make a joyful noise unto the Lord, serve Him with gladness and come before His presence with singing, for we are His People and the Sheep of His pasture. I find myself a lot of times coming before God whining instead of singing. My joyful noise has become a song of defeat and sorrow and gladness is far from me. It's easy to lose focus with the burdens of this world on our shoulders. Too many times I find my feet on my path and not His. I try to fix things on my own instead of letting God fight for me. I don't like feeling helpless and weak. My instinct is to do all I can to fight and prove myself strong. Then God reminds me, sometimes gently and sometimes not so gently, that Satan is an enemy I can't defeat on my own. Only when I get myself out of the way and "become weak" can God come in and win the battle. Oh how clear our Lord's Word is on that, 2Corinthians 12:9 and he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for ***my strength is made perfect in weakness***. Satan likes it when we are sad and feeling defeated. He finds it easy to whisper his taunts and ideas in our ears when we feel unhappy. He finds that to be the best time to plant seeds of unrest. Aren't these some of the times when our service to the Lord feels like a burden instead of a blessing?

So how then with the Enemy raging against us, can we come unto the Lord joyful, happy and singing? Take to heart these verses, Proverbs 3:5 ***Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*** Psalm 143:8 ***Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*** When we remember to trust and depend on the Lord we are then able to push aside our will and focus on His. Then we are able to sing with a joyful noise before Him and serve Him with a glad heart. Of course then we are able to fulfill the rest of Psalm 100, Psalm 100:4 ***Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*** Turmoil may be all around us. Our life may seem like it is in shambles but when we go to God and begin to thank Him for our blessings (thanking Him for what we do have instead of whining for what we don't) and we begin to bless His name, then what joy feels our hearts. Peace flows over our soul and we find ourselves renewed and strengthened. Psalm 29:11 ***The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.*** And let us not forget that even though we may stumble, whine and be slow in praising the Lord this last part of Psalm 100 will forever ring true. Psalm 100:5 ***For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.***

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Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.