

## THE PASSWORD IS *THANKSGIVING*

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### I. Psalm 100:1-5

A. I was having a conversation with someone last Sunday about passwords. If you're doing much of anything online and you're wanting to keep your data secure, you need a password. While some of us cycle through just a handful of passwords, the experts say to stay hack-proof, you need to change them often and they should include numbers, upper and lowercase letters, and not be easily guessable. Let's face it, thievery is alive and well on the internet.

B. I believe our text this evening provides the correct password for entrance into the presence of God. But in this case, the password isn't a secret, it's for all to see. And why do we want to enter into the presence of God Almighty? Because there's no more wonderful or more joyful or a more secure place to be! What's better still, the Lord Himself is the One who has invited us in!

C. Psalm 100:1-5 (ESV) is all about God's grand invitation to enter His presence...

1) **V1-2:** *1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! 2 Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! (Even if our singing is but a joyful NOISE, God loves hearing the voices of His children.)*

2) **V3:** *3 Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. (Jesus talked about sheep and goats; but this verse affirms we're the sheep of His pasture! We belong to God!)*

3) **V4:** (Next comes the password:) *4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! (Thanksgiving is always the way to enter in. Thanksgiving in our hearts is music to our Lord's ears! He can hear thanksgiving even when we're crying. He can see gratitude in every salty tear!)*

4) **V5:** (And why can we be thankful in all circumstances and in the midst of pain and difficulties?) *5 For the Lord is good; (cf. Rom. 8:28) His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.*

D. Whatever it is you may be wrestling with or enduring of suffering through, those things will not last forever. They certainly won't continue past the grave. But God's steadfast love and faithfulness will forever endure and that alone should instill

thanksgiving in our hearts. That alone should excite us about entering in--whether we dance in or crawl in! **Psalm 25:6-7 (ESV)** is part of a prayer-plea by King David: **6** *Remember your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.* **7** *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!*

**E. The steadfast love of the Lord is not only *from of old*, it is for us here and now and we've been granted the ultimate expression of this magnificent love. This love is undeserved and it cannot be earned by our hardest of efforts. It must be received with thanksgiving and joy. With faith and gratitude we gain our entrance to it. **1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)** declares it: **9** *God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.* **10** *This is real love--not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (Therefore beloved, let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!)***

\* Close with Prayer...

## **[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)**

### **[Psalm 100:1-5 \(ESV\)](#)**

**1** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! **2** Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! **3** Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. **4** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! **5** For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

### **[Psalm 25:6-7 \(ESV\)](#)**

**6** Remember your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. **7** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

### **[1 John 4:9-10 \(NLT\)](#)**

**9** God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. **10** This is real love--not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

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## **[Bonus Stuff](#)**

### **1 Chronicles 16:34 (ESV)**

**34** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

### **Psalm 9:1-2 (NIV)**

**1** I will give thanks to You, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.

**2** I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing the praises of Your name, O Most High.

### **Psalm 28:6-7 (NLT)**

**6** Praise the Lord! For He has heard my cry for mercy. **7** The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust Him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

### **Psalm 95:1-3 (ESV)**

**1** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! **2** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! **3** For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

### **Psalm 107:1-9 (ESV)**

**1** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

**2** Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble **3** and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **4** Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; **5** hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. **6** Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them from their distress. **7** He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. **8** Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! **9** For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

### **Lamentations 3:22-26 (ESV)**

**22** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end;

**23** they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. **24** "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." **25** The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.

**26** It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.