

# Coming Into His Presence Pt. 1 - Thanksgiving

## I. The Lesson

Have you ever been frustrated with experiences in your worship services where one week feels like you're caught up into the third heaven and the next week you question your salvation due to the seeming lack of the presence of God? Have you ever wondered, "Is there some kind of formula for consistently getting into the presence of God?"

There are many different variables that play a part in the perceived level of the presence of God in our services: The level of faith/expectancy of the people in the congregation, our personal holiness, technical considerations, etc. However, the Word shows us a very important principle regarding entering the presence of God. It is fail-safe. It works every time. It is as simple as... thanksgiving – no, not the holiday, the heart condition and expression.

**Psalm 100:4** "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving..."

The first instruction in this protocol of entering His presence (His gates) is to enter with thanksgiving. Let's look at what this word means.

Thanksgiving = **towdah** (heb.) = \_\_\_\_\_  
= \_\_\_\_\_ to Him

We give thanks to God for...

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ He is (Savior, Healer, Redeemer, Comforter, etc.)
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ He's done for us (cleansed us, saved us, given us access to His presence, etc.)
  - 3) Who \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (victorious, righteous, cleansed, etc.)
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_ He's *going* to do
- Etc.

We have SO MUCH to be thankful for. When we, as His people, come to Him with thanksgiving in our hearts, lifting our hands, expressing our thanks to Him, He cannot stay away! He has purposed it in His heart to draw near to us when we draw near to Him (James 4:8). In the context of worship, this happens when we draw near to Him with a heart of thanksgiving.

It is important to understand that if God draws near to a heart of thanksgiving, He draws away from hearts of murmuring and complaining. Perhaps this is why we fail to enter into His tangible, manifest presence on a consistent basis. When the children of Israel murmured and complained in the desert, things didn't turn out so great.

How do we "stir up" thanksgiving?

The language of thanksgiving is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalm 95:2** "Let us come before him with **thanksgiving** and extol him with music and song."

**Psalm 107:21-22** “Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of **thanksgiving**, and declare His works with rejoicing.”

**Psalm 116:17** “I will offer to You the sacrifice of **thanksgiving**, and will call upon the name of the Lord.”

So encourage one another and stir up thanksgiving in your team. Your example will lead your congregation into new places in worship and the presence of God.

## II. Discussion

- 1) What are some of the reasons that we, as musicians and singers, struggle with consistently bringing a heart of thanksgiving?
- 2) What are the byproducts of musicians and singers who do NOT bring a heart and countenance of thanksgiving on a weekly basis (both on the team and the congregation)?
- 3) How can we, as a team, “stir up” thanksgiving in ourselves and each other?
- 4) How can we help the congregation grow in this aspect of bringing a heart of thanksgiving to every service?

## III. Prayer Points

- 1) Pray for an increase of thanksgiving in our lives, individually and as a team.
- 2) Pray for protection over the worship ministry... the enemy would LOVE to attack the worship team’s thanksgiving.
- 3) Pray that the bondages of depression, anxiety, and anything else that would hinder our joy would be broken.
- 4) Pray that God would give us hearts of thanksgiving, that we’d look for things to be thankful for more than we look for things to be upset about.