

Enter His gates with thanksgiving!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
(Psalm 100:4)

In Psalm 100 the psalmist tells us we're to worship God gladly, entering His presence with thanksgiving and praise (Psalm 100:2, 4). Yet, how often are we so rushed for time and so consumed with concerns that we begin our prayers asking God our Father to meet our needs? How often do we let our circumstances or feelings dictate our expression or lack of expression of thanksgiving and praise?

No matter how short of time we feel, we can always pause to reflect on the previous day and thank our heavenly Father for everything that comes to mind. We should thank Him for specific blessings He has given us—family, friends, home, work, daily provisions of food, clothing, protection—the list goes on.

But perhaps even more encouraging for us and pleasing to our Father is our praise and thanksgiving for our spiritual heritage. Keep a mental list of all the people you can think of who prayed for you, took you to church, introduced you to Christ, have taught you the truth of God's Word as you have grown along the way. The list may be longer than you anticipate. What pastors or Christian teachers have you sat under? What authors have you read? What media messages have brought the right word at the right time? What Christian friends has God led you to? Thank Him for orchestrating it all to save you and grow you up in Christ.