

Title: "GIVE THANKS!"

Text: Psalm 96:1-13 (KJV)

*O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup> Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day.*

*<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.*

*<sup>4</sup> For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.*

*<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.*

*<sup>6</sup> Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*<sup>7</sup> Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.*

*<sup>8</sup> Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.*

*<sup>9</sup> O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.*

*<sup>10</sup> Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.*

*<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.*

*<sup>12</sup> Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice*

*<sup>13</sup> Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.*

## **INTRODUCTION: BEFORE AMERICA SAID THANK YOU, HEAVEN SAID THANK YOU**

Church, let me start with a truth that might surprise you:

Thanksgiving did not begin at Plymouth Rock — it began at the Rock of Ages.

It didn't begin with Pilgrims — it began with praise.

It wasn't started by tradition — it was commanded by revelation.

Before there was turkey, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, or Black Friday sales...

there was worship.

Psalm 96 is not a suggestion.

It's not a polite invitation.

It is a heavenly command:

“O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.”

This is not David saying, “If you feel like it.”

This is God saying, “I deserve it.”

And David wrote this psalm during a moment of national restoration — when the presence of God returned to His people. If there was ever a time to shout, dance, rejoice, bow, sing, and give thanks... it was then.

Church, look at your own life.

You may not have everything you wanted this year — but God has given you everything you needed.

You might not be where you planned, but you’re still in His hands.

You may have cried tears you never expected, but you’re still covered by a mercy you don’t deserve.

If you woke up this morning with breath in your lungs, purpose in your soul, and grace over your life—you have a biblical, divine, God-ordained responsibility to give Him thanks.

Now let’s walk through Psalm 96 and discover why thanksgiving is not optional — it is essential.

**POINT 1 — GIVE THANKS BECAUSE WE KNOW THE LORD (vv. 4–5)**

David writes:

***<sup>4</sup> For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.***

Why give thanks?

Because the God we worship is not one god among many — He is the only God there is!

The psalm continues:

***<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens.***

Church, that is one of the greatest contrasts in all Scripture.

The world worships what it makes —

But we worship the One who made the world.

The world builds its gods —

But our God builds galaxies.

The world shapes its idols —

But our God shapes eternity.

Every idol is handcrafted...

but our God's hands formed the universe.

*ILLUSTRATION — THE COUNTERFEIT JEWEL*

A jeweler once showed a buyer two diamonds: one real, one fake.

To the eye, they looked identical.

But when he held them to the light — the fake dimmed, and the real one sparkled brilliantly from every angle.

Church, that's the difference between the world's gods and our God.

Money shines until the economy shakes.

Fame shines until people forget your name.

Pleasure shines until morning comes with regret.

But our God?

He shines in the darkness.

He sparkles in the storm.

He glows in the grave.

He reigns in the ages.

THIS is why we give thanks — because we know Him.

People may not understand your praise.

They may look at your shout and say, "What's all that about?"

But they didn't wake you up this morning.

They didn't heal your body.

They didn't restore your mind.

They didn't answer your prayers.

They didn't save your soul.

You know the Lord —

and that's the first reason to give thanks.

## **POINT 2 — GIVE THANKS BECAUSE THE LORD KNOWS US (vv. 1–2)**

The psalm says:

“Sing unto the LORD... show forth His salvation from day to day.”

We don't just thank Him because we know Him —

We thank Him because He knows us.

He knows your name.

He knows your fears.

He knows your flaws.

He knows your pain.

He knows every scar you've tried to hide.

He knows the tears you cry when no one is watching.

And yet... He calls you His own.

John 10:27 says:

***My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:***

Think about that:

Out of billions alive today...

Out of the millions who have lived through history...

Out of galaxies beyond counting...

**He knows YOU.**

Not generally.

Not vaguely.

Not collectively.

Personally.

Familiarly.

Intimately.

*ILLUSTRATION — THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE*

In ancient Israel, shepherds grazed multiple flocks together.

But when one shepherd called his sheep, only his sheep came.

Why?

The sheep didn't respond to the words —  
they responded to the voice.

Church, you are here today because when God called your name, your soul recognized the sound of your Shepherd.

You didn't find God — God found you.

You didn't choose Him — He chose you.

You didn't hold onto Him — He held onto you.

You give thanks because the God who knows every star by name also knows the number of hairs on your head, the weight on your heart, and the destiny on your life.

That's reason number two:

**We give thanks because the Lord knows us.**

## **POINT 3 — GIVE THANKS BECAUSE THE LORD IS COMING BACK FOR US (v. 13)**

Now let's get to the shouting part of the sermon.

David ends Psalm 96 by saying:

“For He cometh... He cometh to judge the earth.”

The world hears this and trembles.

But the believer hears this and rejoices.

Why?

Because the same Jesus who died for you...

the same Jesus who rose for you...

the same Jesus who forgave you...

is coming back to get you.

The news may shake you.

The world may trouble you.

The times may confuse you.

But lift your head —

***THE KING IS COMING.***

Jesus is not sending an angel.

He's not sending a messenger.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says:

For the **Lord himself** shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Not Gabriel.

Not Michael.

Not a prophet.

Not a patriarch.

# The Lord Himself.

And when He comes:

- Every grave will lose its grip.
- Every tear will be wiped away.
- Every storm will be stilled.
- Every burden will be lifted.
- Every believer will rise.

ILLUSTRATION — THE AIRPORT REUNION

Back before 9/11 and the age of TSA and security checkpoints, a little girl was waiting at an airport gate for her father.

Every time the door opened, she perked up.

But when he finally stepped through, she screamed, dropped everything, and ran into his arms crying, “Daddy’s home!”

Church, one day soon, the door between Heaven and Earth is going to open.

And when Jesus steps out...

your waiting... your weeping... your worrying...

**will be over forever!**

That's why we give thanks —

because the story ends in victory.

## **CONCLUSION — WHEN YOU KNOW WHO HE IS, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT GIVE THANKS**

So here's the application, church:

Don't wait for the turkey.

Don't wait for the cornbread.

Don't wait for the sweet potato pie.

Don't wait for the family gathering.

Don't wait for the perfect moment.

If God has been good to you — open your mouth and give Him thanks.

Give thanks because He **MADE** you.

Give thanks because He **SAVED** you.

Give thanks because He **KEEPS** you.

Give thanks because He **LOVES** you.

Give thanks because He **PROVIDES** for you.

Give thanks because He HEALS you.

Give thanks because He FORGIVES you.

Give thanks because He IS COMING BACK for you.

Psalm 96 says creation itself shouts:

– The heavens rejoice

– The sea roars

– The fields praise

– The trees sing

If creation can't stay silent —

why should you?

Don't let a tree out praise you.

Don't let a rock cry louder than you.

Don't let a wave give more glory than you.

Lift your voice this Thanksgiving and declare:

**“THANK YOU, LORD!”**

Not because everything is perfect —

but because He is perfect.

Not because life is easy —

but because God is faithful.

Not because every prayer is answered —

but because every promise is true.

When I think of the goodness of Jesus

and all He has done for me...

my soul cries out:

**“HALLELUJAH! THANK GOD FOR SAVING ME!”**

Church...

Give thanks — because He is worthy.

Give thanks — because He is holy.

Give thanks — because He is mighty.

Give thanks — because He reigns forever.

Let the church shout:

**“THANK YOU, LORD!”**

## THANKSGIVING ALTAR CALL

Church, as we prepare our hearts today, I want to remind you:




Thanksgiving is not just a holiday — it is a response to grace.

Psalm 96 declares:

“Sing unto the Lord... show forth His salvation from day to day.”

But you cannot show forth salvation unless you have received salvation.

So I want to ask you a simple but eternal question:

-  Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
-  Have you surrendered your life to Him?
-  Have you accepted the gift only He can offer—forgiveness and eternal life?

If today you feel the Lord tugging at your heart...

If you feel Him drawing you...

If you sense that now is the time to come back...

Then this invitation is for you.

Come meet the One who knows your name, carries your burdens, forgives your sins,  
and gives you new life.

If you'd like to receive Jesus — or return to Him — you may pray:

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## **SALVATION PRAYER**

“Lord Jesus,

I come to You today with a thankful heart.

I believe You died for my sins and rose again.

Forgive me, wash me, make me new.

I surrender my life to You.

Be my Savior, my Lord, and my King.

Today, I choose to follow You.

Thank You for saving me.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

## A TRADITIONAL BENEDICTION (Thanksgiving-focused)

“May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

May gratitude fill your heart.

May His goodness follow you.

May His presence surround you.

And may His joy strengthen you,

both now and forevermore.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit —

Amen.”

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Phil 4:6

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice evermore.

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing.

<sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you

I Thes 5:16-18

<sup>15</sup> And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Colossians 3:15-17