

Introduction

We will each develop our own rhythm of seeking God and coming into His presence. When I use the approach God has been teaching me based on Psalm 100 and applied to these Advent Devotionals, I begin by reading the first section.

Then I sing the Christmas Hymn. The more I sing songs of praise and adoration the more I see the benefit. Songs of worship proclaim and testify to the truth. They are statements of faith and declare what we believe. Throughout the history of the world, significant events have been accompanied by singing. The creation of the world, the birth of the Son of God, and our new birth. Each of these life changing and world altering events is accompanied by song.

Let's join with the angels and the other heavenly beings and declare the truth while worshipping our Savior and King.

Creation

““Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” (Job 38:4, 7)

Birth of God's Son Jesus

“In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’” (Luke 2:8-14)

New birth of God's adopted children

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” (Luke 15:3-7)

“I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

Marriage of Jesus to His bride

“The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, ‘Amen. Hallelujah!’ And from the throne came a voice saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.’

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord

our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come.” (Revelation 19:4–7)

Give Thanks Unto Him

I believe we are all aware of the benefits of giving thanks. Some days I focus on what God has done for me and give thanks. I thank Him for creating me, redeeming me, praying for me, being near to me, etc. Other mornings I am grateful I have a mind to know Him, a heart to love Him, a should to live with Him eternally, and a spirit to commune with Him. And other days, I am pretty simplistic and thank Him for sunshine, legs that work, eyes that see, and birds that sing.

For this holy-day season, I have arranged the topics to coincide with the name of God and His character. I hope these scriptures will be a start, but they are by no means exhaustive.

Bless His Name

This third part is the most difficult for me, and the most beneficial. I focus and meditate on one name for God, like Savior, or Son of God, or Light of the World. As I chew on this name, and think about what this reveals about God, I find myself knowing Him better, and appreciating Him more.

I have observed that “Blessing His Name” is different than praising Him or giving thanks to Him. When I meditate on His character and person, I am blessing Him for who He is and not for what He has accomplished. Giving thanks for me is based on something God has done, while blessing His name is acknowledging who He is.

I hope these studies will be a help in your walk with God. As you seek Him with these passages from His word, may you not only be enriched, but most of all, may you Taste and See and Experience His Presence in a new and deeper way.

Have a Merry Blessed Christmas,

Steve