

BFF334 Shout to the Lord

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm OK. In fact, I'm good. How are you?

Scott: Good. We're having a crazy busy week.

Steve: Before we pray, let's reminisce a little bit. This is what happens when you get older. Did you know that? When you're younger, you're making the memories and when you get older, you reminisce.

Yesterday was my eight-year anniversary of something significant, and you helped me to process this. Do you remember what happened eight years ago? 2014 on August 17th. I went back and I checked my journal recently and that's the date.

Steve: That's when Sandy and I were up in the Pocono Mountains and I rode my bike to an overlook. I sat there and it was the first time that I waited on God. I spent an hour communing with my Dad. The next day I rode my bike back there and communed again, except it was a little longer.

I don't even know how to use a word to describe it. Communing is the best word I have at my fingertips because it was an interplay, an interaction. We were together. We were communicating to each other. Nothing verbal on my part, but a lot going on in my heart and my mind and my spirit and all the while connected with God.

You can see I'm struggling to put words to it, but I remember you asking me one time why did it take two years since my breakthrough in 2012. It was two years before I spent time in God's presence, and between the two of us we figured out it's because it took two years for me to be fully convinced that God really desired to be with me.

Why would I want to hang out with someone that I really didn't think liked me? Why would I want to seek somebody who I didn't really think he wanted to hang with me? By 2014, the truth that God loves and likes me had finally worked its way right down into the deep, most meaningful parts of my heart, and I believed that God really did like me for who I was and not based on what I did.

All those lessons that I learned in 2012 finally gelled. It was eight years ago.

Yesterday was the day and I have it on my calendar, so I remember. It pops up now every year. I came home -- if you remember the rest of the story -- and I began setting aside time to wait on God, but I found that it was more effective if I was not sitting in my overstuffed recliner.

Seeking God was more effective if I was outside walking and finding God. I began seeking God by walking, whether in a park, my neighborhood, anywhere. I was more focused. There was something special about walking and being outside.

Then four years ago this coming fall -- so that was 2018 -- as I set out on my walk, I sensed the Spirit of God directing me to apply the principles of Psalm 100, which were, "Come into His presence with singing, Give thanks unto Him and praise or bless His name."

I'm trying to set aside time to seek God twice a day now because that's what the priest did, based on our study of the tabernacle. They offered the first sacrifice in the morning and the second in the afternoon.

These principles that I learned four years ago led to a book which I wrote a year ago called, "Come Into His Presence." I articulated more about each of those principles, what it means to come into His presence with singing, giving thanks, praising His name, etc. Then, as you know, about a year ago, we were led to start studying the tabernacle which has also been transformative.

It's fascinating to me because I'm starting to see parallels between the Tabernacle and Psalm 100. We come into His presence with singing. We come into His courts with praise, and you can see some of the language of Psalm 100 is very pertinent to the tabernacle.

Let's pray. Then, we'll go into our topic for today.

"Father, thank you for this journey that you have me on. Thank you for the journey that you have all of us on. You're tutoring each one of us. We are all being taught of the Lord. We're all at different places in our journey. We're all finding our way through our stuff, and into our presence. I thank you for my journey. I thank you for reminding me of the significant waypoints along that journey."

"I pray today that as we talk about our subject, that each person regardless of where we are in our journey will be encouraged and find new life and strength and help to continue to pursue you in a deeper way. Thank you for pursuing us. Help us to continue to pursue you, in Jesus' name." Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: It's probably been over a year now when I was joyfully introduced to these resources online where I can go deeper into the Scriptures and the original languages. You refer to it lovingly as my deep dives into Scripture and most of them come from Bible Hub. I occasionally use Blue Letter Bible and some other resources that I've found, but Bible Hub is my staple now.

In fact, I keep that open on my computer. When I'm reading my Bible, I go back and forth, because something will catch my attention. I'll sense maybe it's the Spirit wants me to go a little deeper into something, so I'll stop my Bible reading and I'll move over and I'll do a study.

It makes my Bible reading a little bit longer, but this is what happens when you get a little older, you have a little bit more time. It's wonderful.

I'm learning how to look at each word because Jesus said, "Men shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." I've gone back and I have studied Psalm 100, word by word. In Psalm 100, which is where we get the principles with "Come into His presence with singing, into His courts with praise, etc." It starts off with "Make a joyful noise."

I thought, "I wonder what that word is." I looked it up in the Bible Hub and it turns out that the word for joyful noise is "Hariau." I want you to just remember the R-U. I

thought, "I wonder where that appears in Scripture." I clicked on that link and I found that it appears 12 times in the Bible. I started reading through those 12 times.

The first one was Joshua 6:10, "Joshua commanded the people, 'You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth until the day I tell you to shout, then you shall shout.'" The word for joyful noise is the same word as to make a loud shout.

In the 16th verse of Joshua 6, we read the same thing, "Shout for Jehovah has given you the city." Psalm 47:1 reads, "Clap your hands all peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy." I'm not going to read each one of these 12 verses, but they're all good. Isaiah 42, "Jehovah will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war, He will utter shout, He will raise a war cry."

The more I looked at all these verses, it began to paint a picture that this is more than just a joyful noise. This is not just a little happy chorus that we start church with. This is a purposeful, you might say militant shout. I have found that a good joyful shout t clears the spiritual atmosphere.

Scott: Is that at the wall of Jericho too when they're marching around and they say...Is that the same one?

Steve: That's where I started with, Joshua 6. I'm sorry. Thank you for bringing that up. Yeah, this is the word used for the Israelites around Jericho.

I went a little deeper and I found the root word for hariu is rua, and which is used 45 times in the Bible. Here's the definition for RUA, blow an alarm, cry aloud, make a joyful noise, shout for joy. The root of it means "to split the ears." It's a blast sound of an alarm. It's a triumphal shout.

I went through and looked up every single one of those 45 verses where RUA is found. I'll read a sampling of these passages. Joshua 6:5 as they go around the walls of Jericho, "it shall be when they make a long blast with the ram's horn. When you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout (RUA) with a great shout. The wall of the city will fall down, the people will go up straight ahead."

Seven times RUA or some derivative of RUA is used in the sixth chapter of Joshua. A significant one that I found which ties these two together, Psalm 95:1-2, "Oh, come let us sing for joy to Jehovah. Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms."

This is very similar to Psalm 100 where we started. In 2 Chronicles when Abijah and Judah were under attack, it says that they were attacked both front and rear. "They cried to Jehovah and the priests blew the trumpets, then the men of Judah raised a war cry. When the men of Judah raised the war cry, then it was that God routed Jeroboam."

It's edifying to read through all these different scriptures. Here's one that you'll recognize, Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly oh, daughter of Zion, shout in triumph, oh,

daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your King is coming to you. He is endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey." That's foreshadowing the triumphal entry of Jesus on Palm Sunday. I started thinking, "Wow, this is more than just Come into His presence by singing, 'Just as I am.' I need to start my approach to God with a militant shout and 'Make a joyful shout' if I'm going to obey the Scripture and obey the sense of this word.

When I begin my walks now, I start off by making a joyful declaration. If I'm in the car by myself, if I'm at home by myself, I do this out loud. I don't want to scare the people listening to this podcast, but this approach certainly clears the air. I do some hallelujahs!!! I've made a list of passages from the Psalms, along with several in Revelation.

I've also made a list of declarations, I call them. These are testaments to the truth. Here's my favorite one. I pulled this together from several different verses particularity in the Psalms.

"Arise, O Jehovah, and let Your enemies be scattered and let those who hate You flee before you. May those who love You and love Your name and hope in Your lovingkindness find joy, strength, and refuge under the shadow of Your wings." You've read your Bible enough and you probably recognize four or five verses referenced in this joyful declaration. Arise, oh, Jehovah and let your enemies be scattered and let those who hate you flee before you." Moses said this every time the Ark set out As you know, in the world today we have lots of enemies that are not flesh and blood.

Then that expression, "hope in His steadfast love and His steadfast loving kindness" comes from Psalm 33:18, "The eye of Jehovah is on those who fear Him and those who hope in His steadfast love." Psalm 5:11, "Let all who take refuge in You rejoice, let them ever sing for joy, spread Your protection over them that those who love Your name may exalt in you."

Then, of course, I'm going to finish up with Psalm 91:1-4, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to Jehovah, my refuge, and my fortress, my God in whom I trust, for He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings, you will find refuge. His faithfulness is a shield and buckler."

When you put all those together, you are uttering a powerful declaration. It's a shout of joy. It's a militant war cry. The first time that the word RUA is used in the Bible is in Numbers 10:7 "When convening the assembly however you shall blow without sounding an alarm."

Numbers 10:9 says, "When you go to war on your land against the adversary who attacks you, you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before Jehovah your God and be saved from your enemies." These are followed by those passages in Joshua concerning Jericho.

As I dug into the Word of God, it painted a whole different picture than I had in my mind ahead of time. I've been so edified. Job 38:7, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." This is what happened at creation. I find that it's not so much the loudness of my voice, it's more of an attitude in my heart.

There are very few times when I go walking when I'm ready to start shouting for joy, especially if it's early in the morning or late at night. Just being able to declare the truth clears the spiritual air. It is a wonderful declaration. I'm doing it because it's in God's word and I want to be obedient to God's word.

As I do it, it is a wonderful way to start my time seeking God by raising that war cry, that militant declaration of truth. I love it. I do. Then I sing a hymn and I give thanks and I praise His name. Then I ask God to give me ears to hear what He has for me today.

This Biblical approach works. When I follow God's principles in His word of God, God does come near. I'm putting together new studies for myself that I start the day with. I start with the blood of Jesus as I come through the gates and pass the Bronze altar on the way into the Tabernacle.

I come through His gate, I enter His courts with Thanksgiving and His gates with praise and I make a joyful shout. I believe in the blood of Jesus. I go into the holy place and I ask Him to fill me just like if I was a priest, I'd be filling up that golden lamp stand. I ask Him to wash my feet in the water of His word, which is the basin. I come into His presence with singing. Into His courts with praise and I meet God. It's wonderful. I don't know how you're going to respond to this, but go for it.

Scott: I looked up Psalms and one of my favorites is 149.

Steve: Oh, yeah. A good one.

Scott: I was looking around that one at the other ones nearby and 146 through 150. All start with "Praise the Lord." There's got to be a bunch of others that's to start similarly if not that exact phrasing, and you're right. God's word is pretty powerful, and it actually does have some practical sense to it. When you actually do this stuff, it helps crazy enough.

Steve: Let me break in here because you're right. This is in my closing notes. Psalm 104:1, "Bless Jehovah, O my soul. O Jehovah, my God. You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty."

As we believe the Psalms, written by David, Asaph, Sons of Korah, they knew how to come into God's presence. I agree with you. Most of the Psalms begin with praise. Psalm 145:1-2, which you were probably going to quote, "I extol You, my God and King, and I bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever."

Scott: It's amazing how many things I keep remembering from my youth, growing up in the Episcopal Church where we had all kinds of readings from Psalms and parts of the liturgy where it says, "Praise the Lord, O my soul," or something like that.

Yet so much of that for me was just reading the words on the page. It didn't mean anything. You think about it, it's real. I don't know how to put that. If you actually take God at His word and realize that every word was breathed from His mouth and this is powerful stuff, it does make a difference.

Steve: It does. I'll give you two more passages. You tell me whether they did this as you used to do going into church or me going into church. Psalm 21:9, Palm Sunday, just referenced it in Zechariah. "Hosanna to the Son of David."

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

You know that those people were bellowing those words. They were swinging their arms. They were waving palm branches, and declaring, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." "Hosanna in the highest."

The religious leaders rebuked Jesus because they were using these inspired words words. Jesus didn't say, "Oh yeah, excuse me." No, He said, "Look, if these children didn't do it, the stones would be crying out."

Revelation 5:13, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever."

In Revelation, that had to be a loud bellow from the hearts of grateful saints. You and I are going to be amongst that throng someday. We're going to be there.

We're going to have our arms raised worshiping from the depths of our hearts. We're going to sing these praises and we're going to declare the truth. I believe it's a foretaste of heaven when we do this.

This whole podcast is about what I do from what I've learned in the Scripture. This is my personal connection with God. I have yet to figure out how to do this in a church setting.

Perhaps we could have some times of giving thanks. I could envision us having some times of praising His name and at the beginning having the congregation have some powerful declarations of truth, and maybe with a louder voice.

I just want us to be biblical. I want us to apply these scriptures because they have worked so powerfully for me, personally. I believe they would work for us, corporately. That's something to seek God about. Amen.

"Thank You Father for Your word. The big picture word, all 66 books of the Bible word. Also, thank You for the Word made flesh. We've found they have been in Jesus' heart when he was worshiping God alone on the mountain, and to see how he applied these principles.

"It would be wonderful to be with David and the priests and Asaph and the Sons of Korah as they applied the scriptures, and came into Your presence with joyful shouting and with declaring the truth and with singing and giving thanks and praising Your name."

"I believe that this is what we're going to be doing in heaven. I believe that we can be first fruits and do it right now. Help us individually. Lead us how to do it corporately. Lead us how to lead our families this way."

"I thank You for Your word. I thank You for Your each word. It's inspired of God and profitable. Thank You that You've taught us how to dig and dive a little bit deeper into these meanings. Continue to unfold them as we walk in the light that You give us. In Jesus' name, amen."

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.