

Judy's Manna
June, 2016

Continuation of Psalm 100 from last month - a study of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a portion of Judy's personal testimony

VERSE ONE: God created us to worship Him! (Romans 11:36) He has provided the Psalms for us to worship Him daily in song and in joy, to exercise our emotions.. My plan is to read the first, the 31st, the 61st, the 91st, and the 131st Psalms on the first day of the month. On the second day of the month I read Psalm 32, 62, 92, and 132. On day three I read the next consecutive Psalms.

I also read the Proverbs for the day. There are 31 Proverbs. I fervently believe, in fact I guarantee, that if a family will read the Proverbs for the day each day as a family out loud, that all members of the family will have God's principles imprinted on their hearts. Their spirits will rehearse to them, "If you do this, this will happen!" The Proverbs give what happens when we choose the godly action and what happens when we choose the ungodly action. God gave us Proverbs to clearly establish His principles in our hearts. When you do bad things, bad things happen! When you do good things, good things happen! In the Psalms you emotions experience a daily workout!

Speaking Psalm 100 to my heavenly Father each day is a joy. Then I do what the Psalm says to do! I make a joyful shout to the Lord, knowing that I am shouting with people all over the world who are making a joyful noise to the Lord right at the same time! I come into my heavenly Father's presence with singing. "I know that, Father, You rejoice over me with joy and joy over me with singing!" (Zephaniah 3:17)

Knowing that we could not keep all of His laws, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the fulfillment of all of His laws (Matthew 5:17), to live, to die, and to be raised from the dead to be the final sacrifice for our sins (I John 2:2) and to provide the gift of eternal life for us (John 17:3). No one can keep all of God's laws. No one is without sin (I John 1:8).

The glorious news is that through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit living inside of us, we don't have to give in to the whims of our minds and our flesh (II Peter 1:2). We can grow each day in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As we yield to the Holy Spirit each day, we will be becoming more like Jesus Christ each day. What was acceptable yesterday will no longer be acceptable today☺

I make notes of particular verses that stand out to me each day. I am always gathering lists of topics that are of special interest to me right now, such as nations, Israel, long life, Christ's appearing, shelter and abiding, love the Lord, courage and hope, and waiting on God. The Bible is so alive! God has a message for every single issue we have. Finding out what God will speak to me each day from the Bible is a highlight of my life.

VERSE TWO: "Dear Father, I choose to serve You with gladness. Let every thought and action be anointed by Your presence and Your energy. Truly may your joy be my strength today, I pray."

As I come across verses in the Bible that I have learned in song over the years, I make a note of them. If you are as old as I am and have walked with our Lord for many years, you probably know these songs as well. When I want to sing a song to the Lord, I look at my list and decide which song to sing. A few of the songs are: Psalm 20:7-9 Some

trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will trust in the name of the Lord our God; Psalm 24 Lift up your heads, O ye gates...part of the glorious Hallelujah Chorus; Proverbs 30:11-12 You have turned my mourning into dancing; Psalm 50:22 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; Psalm 61:2 Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I; Psalm 84:11 For the Lord our God is a sun and shield; Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing!

VERSE THREE: "Father, all day long may I know that You are the Lord, my God. May I be aware that it is You Who has made us all. May I revel in the truth that You made me. I am not in charge. Hooray! I am not in charge! Wow!

"What a joy to know that You have a plan for me and that my job is to flow with it. Father, I know that being in the center of Your will for my life is the height of life experience. There is no higher place to be!

"Father, help me to live as one of your sheep. Sheep keep their eyes on their Shepherd. Sheep listen to their Shepherd. Sheep follow their Shepherd. Let me be a joyous sheep today!" (Psalm 23)

VERSE FOUR: "Father, gratitude is a key to life. May I enter your gates with thanksgiving. May my heart ever be filled with thankfulness. I thank You today for my salvation, that I am Your child, that I was bought with a price, the price of the perfect sacrifice of my Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 7:23). I thank You, Jesus, for dying for me. I thank You for living for me today and for speaking of me to my Father (Romans 8:33-35). I thank You, Holy Spirit for energizing me, for whispering to me (I Kings 19:11-13). May I act upon your whispers today!

"Father, may I live with praise in my heart. Praise is a powerful weapon that I can wield. Praise keeps my emotions in joy. Praise puts my focus

upon You, dear Father. Praise brings Your power to any situation. May I praise You with my whole heart today. May I be more thankful to You today than yesterday, more thankful tomorrow than today. May I truly bless Your name. Your name is You!

"Father, may I keep before Me your history. Before Your Son, Jesus Christ, overcame death and hell (Revelation 1:18) and provided eternal life for me (John 17:3), your children could not enter Your presence. Let's see if I can picture the before and after of the Cross of Your Son, Jesus Christ:

"Only the high priest could enter the holy of holies once a year and place a blood sacrifice on the mercy seat (Hebrews 9:7). No one else could enter the holy of holies. There was a rope attached to the priest in case he might die or not be able to remove himself. Others would then be able to pull him out. If anyone else except the high priest would enter the holy of holies, he or she would die.

"At the moment Jesus Christ died, the curtain separating people from the Holy of Holies was ripped in half, from the top to the bottom. The curtain was twenty feet wide and seventy feet tall. The Bible says it was the width of a man's hand, reported by some to be four inches thick. You know, Father, that the historian Josephus reported that two horses tied to either side of the curtain could not pull it apart. (Father, I must spend some more time soon focusing just on the occurrences that took place on the day of Your Son's Crucifixion. You spoke so loudly that day.)

"What you have done in my heart is a much greater miracle than splitting the curtain in two. You have come to live in my heart. I know what it was like before You entered my heart and I know what it was like after you entered my heart. I have known Your presence in my

heart since that day I woke up one morning and I knew that You are real and that You live in my heart.

"How thick a crust I must have had, remember? I made the decision that You are real and that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for me at Forest Home Conference Center in Forest Falls, California in July of 1967.

"How did I miss realizing that You are alive and are ready to enter each eager heart? I loved you, dear Father, for as long as I can remember. I was the only one in my family who went to church. I was active in youth groups, had prayer meetings in our home before school even. How did I not know you personally? I memorized Scripture and made a notebook of Scripture topics. How very sad that I was missing Your "personalness."

"I grew up thinking I was here to make the world a better place, the social gospel. I do not remember ever being asked to ask Jesus Christ into my heart to be Lord of my life. No one I knew spoke this way, yet we attended church and spent much time in the Bible and in prayer. I realized later that, indeed, my pastor and others knew You personally, but somehow I missed the message."

My precious two friends, Helen and Claire, were praying for me. They even treated me to a week at Forest Home Conference Center. How I thank God for them! While I was at Forest Home, I saw joy on faces that I knew was different than anything I had ever seen. I knew that what they had was real.

"Father, You must have been amused by what I did. I talked with You and told You that I knew You, but I did not grasp that Jesus Christ died for me. Oh, I can't even say it, it seems impossible! I did not

think of myself as a sinner. There I said it. You had so much patience with me, dear Father.

"Being second born in my family, I was naturally a pleaser. I also was born with a personality that loves people and wants to bless them. I did not try to be good, I just was. When I said the Apostle's Creed, I winced when I spoke of confessing my sins, because I couldn't think of any! How you must have chuckled, dear Father!

"Remember how I went down the hill to my home in Laguna Beach and every morning I would wake up and say to you, 'Father, I believe Jesus died for me, but You and I both know that the reality is not mine yet.'"

Surprised and perplexed, I said this each morning for three weeks. Then, on that one great morning I woke up and Jesus Christ was more real to me than anything I knew. I knew He is alive. I knew He lives in my heart. I knew Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior! From that day in July (I am choosing July 23, 1967 because I didn't write down the exact day) to this day, June 13, 2016, I have known God's Son, Jesus Christ, alive and in my heart!

"Father, how thick was the deception in my heart that it took three weeks to get through to me! It was thicker than the four-inch curtain that was rent in two when Jesus Christ died for me!

"You know what happened next in my heart. I became aware of the sin in my life. Oh, the pride of life and self-centeredness I acknowledged before You. It was so ugly. I found out right away that as I confessed my sin, that You took it. No longer did I live for myself. Wondrous freedom came from knowing that everything I am and everything I do is for You, dear Father. As I confess my sins each day, you forgive them and forget them! (I John 1:9).

"The curtain for me was rent in two. I at last knew You, dear Father, but I also knew Your Son, Jesus Christ personally. You had to chuckle again as You watched my growth in You. So, now I knew You and I knew my Savior Who died and rose again, overcoming death and hell for me (Revelation 1:18), so that I can enter Your presence at any time (Hebrews 10:19).

"Remember how awkward I felt about what was called "witnessing" for You? As Your child I knew that telling others of the miraculous transformation in my life is part of knowing You. I was to tell people that I became born of the Spirit! I definitely was soft-spoken person and not naturally bold. You definitely had a plan to change me!

"Remember how hungry I was to know You better? Remember how I eagerly accepted the invitation to attend a meeting where a man would pray for people. Who was first in the chair for prayer? Me! Something was imparted to me that day that changed me. Someone else had to drive home. I was affected deeply, I remember.

How did You do it? You imparted to me the joy of speaking of Your Son, Jesus Christ, to everyone I meet. I was shy about speaking of Jesus Christ before that day. After that day I could not stop speaking of Jesus Christ and cannot to this day. I thank You, dear Father, for the great privilege of looking people in their eyes and telling them how much You love them. Christ and I trust that you are, too.' What an honor. What a joy."

Friends, I did not intend or plan to share how I came to know the Father first, then the Son at age twenty-seven, and then the Holy Spirit at age thirty. As I wrote of what happened at the Crucifixion, I naturally remembered of how it affected my life and opened all of heaven to me! (Mark 4:17)

VERSE FIVE: "Father, You are good! Your mercy is everlasting! Father, may I weep over the things that make you weep. May I make a difference where I can today in issues that concern You. Show me what to do, perhaps in just one life. May I show Your mercy today. May I feel Your mercy in my heart and act upon it.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). We can now enter into the presence of God at any time. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead and returned to heaven through His own blood He entered the Holy of Holies. The Old Testament form of sacrifice was a representative, a forerunner, of the New Covenant, the One sacrifice made for all. A really clear explanation of the place of the Old Testament sacrifices and the glorious New Covenant in Christ Jesus is found in Hebrews Chapter Nine in the Amplified Bible. You can google it and read it online. We must hold before us the truth of what Jesus Christ did for us.

Picture ourselves living in the Old Testament and meeting the requirement each year of a blood sacrifice for our sins. There were five types of offerings: the burnt offering (Leviticus 1:4-9); the meal offering (Leviticus Chapter Two); the peace offering (Genesis 31:43); the sin offering (Leviticus 1:1-4), and the trespass offering (Leviticus 6:5-7). Jesus Christ was all of the offerings in One Sacrifice. He took upon Himself all past, present, and future sins (Hebrews 10-12-14). How very crucial to our faith is acknowledging what Jesus Christ has done for us.

"Father, You gave us Your truth: the foretelling of the coming of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament and the revelation of His coming in the New Testament. You gave us Your son and now we are Your children because He was born, he lived, He gave His life, He rose from the

dead, and now sits at Your right hand (Romans 8:34). We are actually seated there with You! (Ephesians 2:6-7).

"Keep looking up, You tell us! One day we will see Your Son, Jesus Christ, in the clouds, and join Him in the air, to be with Him forever! (II Thessalonians 4:17).

What a glorious day that will be

When my Jesus I will see.

I will look upon His face,

The One Who saved me by His grace.

And He'll take me by the hand

And lead me to the promised land.

What a day! Glorious day that will be!

(written by Jim Hill)

So, there's my heart to you for June☺