

Truly Great to Grow Together

4.4 We give thanks and praise

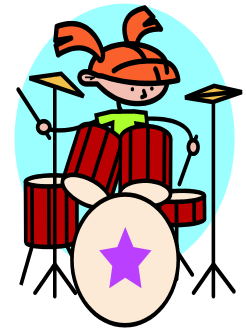


Bible Verse: Psalm 100 : 4

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

Proclaim: *Let us come to God with thanksgiving and sing joyfully to Him.*

Truth: All the earth shall praise the Lord jubilantly and come before Him with singing. For we are made by Him and we belong to Him.



Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson: (1) **Enter God's presence with Thanksgiving** – *When the Son of God, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, a team of wise men from the east presented Jesus with gifts of gold, of incense and of myrrh. The wise men offered their best to worship the Lord. This fulfills what the Bible teaches: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, enter His courts with praise." Today, as we come before God, we must similarly offer to God our thanksgiving and praise, besides love offerings and tithes. (Matthew 2:11)*

(2) **Praise God loudly And joyfully** – *The God of Israel, our Lord, is the resurrected Savior! No longer is He in the tomb of Jerusalem! This is why we want to shout joyfully and praise Him, hailing all the earth to bless Him. The author of the book of Psalms, David, said: "With my mouth I will greatly extol the Lord; in the gatherings of the people I will praise Him." (Psalm 109:30)*

(3) **Praise God exuberantly** – *God delights in the exuberant praises of His people. The Bible teaches: "Praise Him with the clash of cymbals, praise Him with resounding cymbals"; "Let them praise His name with dancing". Let us lift our hands and clap our hands to praise God. With thanksgiving and shouts of joy, we can overcome the slothful flesh, the downcast emotions and the distracting thoughts. (Psalm 150:5, 149:3, 42:5)*

(4) **Give thanks to God in everything** – *We have to thank God in everything, even in difficult times, for God's love never changes. Let us be a people who are always thanking the Lord. Give thanks to Jesus whose shedding of blood has won for us:*
1.~ The authority to be children of God; 2.~ Name written in the Book of Life
3.~ Abundant Life; 4.~ The power to overcome sins, and etc. A grateful heart can understand more fully the good will of Lord Jesus, because God is a God who does new things. (Lamentations 3:23, Psalm 34:1, Isaiah 43:19-20)

Conclusion: There will be distressing times in the last days. *"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, disobedient to their parents. Ungrateful.."* However, let us be a grateful people who continually come before God with thanksgiving and with praise.

Prayer/Invitation: Pray that today's truths will be written on our hearts in Lord Jesus' name.