

Thought for Today: February 19, 2008

Psalm 100 (NASB)

**Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful singing.
Know that the LORD Himself is God;
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

**Enter His gates with thanksgiving
And His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him, bless His name.
For the LORD is good;
His lovingkindness is everlasting
And His faithfulness to all generations.**

What is it about life that sometimes makes us lose a sense of hope? What is it that makes us feel lost or out of touch? What makes us feel helpless to heal the brokenness in our lives? What causes us to want to quit the battle—to just lie down and close our eyes and pretend that things were different? Easier? Better?

At times in my life, the thing that has robbed me of joy, peace, and contentment has been—me. We can be our own worst enemy when we try to live like we're the ones in control. When we feel the stresses, burdens, and heartaches of this world, we need to find a moment to put everything else on pause so that we can find something stable to hold on to. When our knees are weak or when we're dizzy by the relentless pounding of life's stormy waves, we need to find something solid and strong that can support us. We need to find something or someone who can be relied upon at any hour, in any situation, no matter how rough the water.

The psalmist who wrote this short psalm found the One we need. He found a source of power, provision, protection, steadfast love, and—above all else—everlasting faithfulness. There it is! There's the foundation we need, the immovable rock, the pillar that can support us no matter what. The psalmist calls Him Lord and God.

One of the greatest gifts I can imagine is the assurance not simply that God loves me but that He loves me and is faithful to me forever. He never forsakes His children. If only the whole world knew that we are never God-forsaken. . . .

Give thanks to the Lord,
Patrick Barber