

# SHOUT FOR JOY TO THE LORD

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He, who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endure forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalms 100:1-5)*

The scene is on the platform: A handsome man singing to a beautiful woman and people watching are clapping, shouting, and dancing. Oftentimes we watch on TV screen people singing and dancing with songs and impressively we go along with them.

I myself was among those people who lifted hands to the songs and danced with the tunes and melodies of musical presentations. The words of the songs were either directed toward the nature, relationship or adoring certain person but it did not matter me because I like the music. Until the time I came to know and believe what Jesus had done for me; my singing and dancing became more meaningful. I started to sing and to interpret wonderful songs adoring Jesus my Lord and my Saviour. Jesus became my Friend, my Lord and the King that I adore and worship. His Spirit lives in me, and I cannot praise anyone except Him, and no songs I will utter or shout unless it is for Him.

**Shout for joy to the Lord:** No one is worthy of praise but God who created us and the Lord who saved us. Praise and adoration is only due for Him. We have the full reason to thank Him; we have no excuse not to shout, to sing, and to praise His Holy Name.

1. **It is He who made us:** *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalms 24:1)* Therefore, He is the only one who deserves all the credit; everything we have is from Him and for Him. Our love and adoration is to Him, and our song is to praise Him for the great work He has done for us, and every blessing He has given.
2. **We are His people:** God so loved the people of the world. *“This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)*
3. **We know that the Lord is God:** We worship Jesus because He is God. After the resurrection of Jesus from the dead the disciples worshipped Him and as He was taken to Heaven. They worshipped Him because He is God; worship only belongs to God. For *“It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.” (Luke 4:8)*

**Praising God:** The first time the people of God sang and danced to the Lord is when they passed safely through the Red Sea; when their enemies who pursued them sank in to the sea. In response to this mighty act the people praised God in singing and dancing. (Read Exodus Chapter 14 and 15) God’s mighty power compels our praise to Him. We praise God because Jesus has saved us from sin and from death when He died

on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven. We praise Jesus because He is Lord and God, and we know that He will come again to take us to be with Him forever.

We praise God because He is good, loving, and faithful. We praise Him and thank Him for all the miracles that He has done on our life. We praise Him for the eternal life we received through Jesus, for the joy and peace He gives us, and for our daily provision that He never fails to provide. We praise Him for how He protects us from harm; He rescues us from danger and delivers us from problems. Let us continue to remind ourselves for all of God’s goodness to us, and let these be the source of our praise to Him without seizing.

**Worshipping God:** Worship is the true adoration and reverence to God, and this will come only when we are in His presence in front of His throne. But we cannot reach God unless through the blood of Jesus, because He is Holy and we are sinners and we cannot enter the Most Holy Place where God’s throne is. But by the blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross, there is forgiveness of sin. *“The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this... their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” (Hebrews 10:15, 17)* So we enter the Most Holy Place and come near to the throne of God if we have personal relation with God through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Jesus is our way to come to God’s throne so that we can offer our worship and ourselves to Him. And, as we worship God we experience His presence and His Holy Spirit acts on us:

- a) **He convicts us to confess our sins:** To worship God in spirit and truth we have to take the decision to repent and turn away from our sin like pride, jealousy, anger, lies, drinking, smoking, fighting, stealing, quarrelling, and all kinds of wrong doing. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)*
- b) **He restores the joy of our salvation:** We come to God in reverence, and we are assured that our sins are forgiven. We feel His great love to us and our relationship to Jesus is strengthened as we reach His presence and worship Him in spirit.
- c) **He fills our emptiness and He empowers us:** As we worship God, His Spirit reminds us of His love and promises. He empowers us to forgive others, to share our faith, and He fills us with love and good attitude toward all people around us.
- d) **He assures us the victory:** In God’s presence our burden and heaviness becomes light. As we worship God He assures us that He is with us in our difficult times. He arms us with patience and perseverance, and He makes us ready to face the world and every trial around us.

**My dear and beloved:** The word of God calls us to sing, shout, give praise and worship God alone. In our Christian walk we ought to turn away from the music and songs of this world, and start to praise God and to thank Him for His love and faithfulness: *“I will sing praise. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth to declare your goodness. Jesus, You are my light and my salvation. I will praise You forever for everything You have done; In your name I put my hope and trust. For your name, Lord Jesus, is above every name.” Amen.*