



## Serve the Lord with Gladness Devotion

*Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing (Psalm 100:2)!*

This invitation from the psalmist is something that often gets forgotten in the rush of our daily lives. When this happens we let our human feelings of guilt, frustration, obligation, and weariness deprive ourselves of the gladness God wants us to have and enjoy. The Bible does say *serve the Lord with gladness*. Sometimes we serve the Lord with gladness, and sometimes we serve ourselves and the gladness is not there.

We serve the Lord with gladness in many ways. Sometimes it is necessary to watch for ways to serve. Sometimes changing our thoughts from “I have to do this” to “I want to do this” is all it takes. It is a matter of attitude. This attitude is shown in Matthew 25:40, when Jesus says, “*as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*” When we smile at a weary clerk in the grocery store, take cookies to a new neighbor, or offer assistance to someone in need, we are serving the Lord. When we tell a child “we **want to have** devotions now” instead of “we **have to have** devotions now,” that is all it takes. Nothing has changed but everything has changed. The Lord works in our hearts.

Gladness lifts our hearts as we go about our daily lives. Serving the Lord with gladness is desirable according to the psalmist. David often did this, but sometimes he chose to serve himself rather than God. When that happened, the gladness left David just as it leaves us. Psalm 32 is David’s request to God for forgiveness for this failing. We, like David, sometimes serve ourselves rather than God. Like David we can go to our Father and ask and receive forgiveness. When we repent of our sins, partake of the Lord’s Supper, and accept the forgiveness of our sins, the gladness returns. And this is a gladness that we can reflect to others. The more we are in the Word through reading, Bible class, church, and the Sacraments, the easier this attitude of gratitude becomes. Seek out opportunities to serve the Lord with gladness. As we serve others, we serve Him.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help me to keep in mind the love You have given me through Your Son, Jesus. Be with me as I live each day in the knowledge of Your gift of eternal life. Help me share with others the joy of having a Savior. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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