Celebrate Our Great God!

Dr. Tony Evans on Psalm 100, Joyful Worship, Glad Service, and Why God Is Worth Celebrating

Dr. Tony Evans | Tuesday, November 3, 2026 | Host: Mark Burns

Program Summary

On this Tuesday edition of Mark & Friends, Mark Burns introduces Part One of a Founders Week 2026 message by Dr. Tony Evans, delivered as Moody Radio celebrates its 100th anniversary. Dr. Evans begins with a personal expression of gratitude: Moody Radio welcomed his broadcast ministry when many other radio outlets would not. With warmth and humor, he then turns to Psalm 100 and asks why Christians celebrate so many people, occasions, and teams while sometimes remaining quiet about the God who made them. Psalm 100:1–2 calls believers to joyful praise and glad service, while verse 3 begins to explain why God is worthy: He alone is God, our Maker, and our Shepherd. Evans compares the time and enthusiasm devoted to sports with the public testimony Christians can offer about God, and illustrates how serving in God's household carries both privileges and responsibilities. The broadcast ends at the transition from the call to worship to its cause, setting up Wednesday's continuation about the names and character of God.

Key Takeaways

• God is the central reason for Christian celebration, not merely the giver of occasions worth celebrating.

• Moody Radio's centennial gives Dr. Evans an opportunity to thank those who opened doors for his ministry.

• Psalm 100 invites the whole earth to shout joyfully to the Lord.

• Praise can be personal and quiet, but the psalm also calls for a public expression of gratitude.

• Dr. Evans uses humorous comparisons with sports and celebrity culture to challenge misplaced enthusiasm.

• Worship is more than a feeling; it includes glad service and practical commitment.

• Belonging to God's household carries responsibilities as well as blessings.

• Our words and actions can help others recognize the goodness of the God we serve.

• Psalm 100:3 grounds our joy in God's identity: He made us, and we belong to Him.

• Genuine worship has reasons rooted in truth, rather than emotion detached from understanding.

Scripture References

• Psalm 100:1–3

• Exodus 15:1–21

• Luke 15:20–24

• Luke 15:10

• Revelation 21:23–25

• Psalm 95:1–7

• Colossians 3:17

• 1 Peter 2:9

Quote of the Day

“Our great God is worth celebrating.” — Dr. Tony Evans

Broadcast Notes

The program opens with the Mark & Friends welcome and Mark's introduction to a two-day presentation from Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026. Moody Radio's Stephen Tabor introduces the centennial celebration and Dr. Tony Evans. Evans thanks Moody for giving his radio ministry an early opportunity, then jokes about negotiating to speak at the conference. He describes celebrations in ordinary life and in Scripture, including Israel after the Red Sea and the father's welcome of the prodigal son. Turning to Psalm 100, he develops the call to joyful public praise and glad service. He uses a humorous progression of slang terms ending in 'GOAT'—greatest of all time—to emphasize God's incomparable greatness. His Chicago Bears and Dallas football illustration challenges the audience to show at least as much enthusiasm for God as for sports. His childhood chores story teaches that enjoying the benefits of a household brings responsibilities. The mannequin-in-a-store-window illustration depicts believers as visible witnesses to God. The program concludes as Evans begins Psalm 100:3, with Mark promising a continuation about the names of God on Wednesday. His sports figures and illustrative comparisons are presented as part of his spoken message, not independently verified statistics.

❤■ Practical Applications

• Read Psalm 100 aloud and identify the words that describe God's character.

• Thank God for someone who opened a door for my faith or service, as Moody did for Dr. Evans.

• Compare the enthusiasm I show for entertainment with the attention I give to praising God.

• Tell one person a specific way God has been faithful in my life.

• Serve in one practical way this week with gladness rather than resentment.

• Thank God that He made me and that I belong to Him.

• Use ordinary conversations to point toward God's goodness without making them a performance.

• Examine whether I am seeking the benefits of faith while avoiding opportunities to serve.

• Make time for both quiet worship and appropriate public expressions of praise.

• Ask whether my worship reflects truth about God as well as emotion.

Today's Challenge

For the next seven days, begin with Psalm 100. Each day, name one reason God is worthy of praise, express that gratitude in prayer, and take one glad-hearted action of service. At least once during the week, tell another person how God's goodness has affected your life. Ask yourself: 'Would someone watching my words and actions recognize that I believe God is worth celebrating?'

Closing Prayer

Father, I praise You because You alone are God. Thank You for creating me, loving me, and inviting me to belong to You. Forgive me when I become more excited about temporary things than about Your enduring goodness. Teach me to worship You with joy that is rooted in truth, not merely in my circumstances. Give me a thankful voice and a willing heart to serve. Help me remember the people You have used to open doors and encourage my faith, and show me how to encourage someone else. Let my words and actions point beyond myself to Your greatness. Thank You for being my Maker and Shepherd. May I celebrate You not only with what I say but also with the way I live. In Jesus' name, Amen.

About Today's Speaker

Dr. Tony Evans is a pastor, Bible teacher, author, and founder of The Urban Alternative. He is the founding pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas and host of the radio program The Alternative. Through decades of preaching, writing, and broadcasting, he has encouraged people to understand and apply God's Word. In this Founders Week 2026 message, he reflects gratefully on Moody Radio's early support of his broadcasting ministry and teaches from Psalm 100.

About Today's Host

Mark Burns is General Manager of the WLUJ Family of Stations and Great News Radio Network and host of Mark & Friends. Through decades of Christian radio ministry, he shares Scripture-centered teaching, testimonies, and conversations that seek to educate, edify, and evangelize. He introduces this two-part Founders Week presentation and encourages listeners to explore the accompanying resources.

Proofread Broadcast Transcript

We're glad you're here. We're glad you're here. Fellowship is sweeter, knowing you're near.

It's so good to see you. We hope that it's clear. Everyone loves you.

We're glad you're here. Oh, magnify the Lord with me. Let us exalt His name together.

It's Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 and welcome to Mark & Friends. Today and tomorrow, we're sharing a special message from Dr. Tony Evans recorded a few weeks ago during Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026. And what a fitting celebration of Moody Radio's 100th anniversary.

Get ready for some wonderful encouragement from Psalm 100 as we discover why our great God is worthy of our praise. Here's Moody Radio with the introduction. The reason why God is to go the greatest of all times.

If he was looking for somebody greater, he'd have to come back to himself because he couldn't find what he was looking for because he's in a class all by himself. And when you think about a God like that, it ought to make you want to shout. Welcome to Moody Radio's special coverage of Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026 taking place in Chicago, Illinois.

We just heard a quick preview from Dr. Tony Evans and his full message from Thursday evening is coming up. I'm Stephen Tabor. Thanks for being here.

For over a century, Founders Week has provided Moody Bible Institute students and guests with spiritually challenging messages and worship. This three-day event features teaching sessions throughout the day and evening messages from well-known Bible teachers. To learn more, go to foundersweek.org or check them out on social media and YouTube as well.

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Moody Radio this year. 100 years of bringing the word of God and helping you take your next step with Jesus. Dr. Evans is the founding pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas and founder and president of The Urban Alternative.

He has also served as the former chaplain of the Dallas Mavericks and Dallas Cowboys and has authored over 150 books, booklets, and Bible studies. Dr. Evans also hosts the radio program The Alternative. Here is Dr. Tony Evans.

It is a joy and an honor and a privilege to be here at Moody Bible Institute. I join the chorus of people worldwide after some 50,000 graduates of this institution has affected the world with the good news of the gospel to congratulate you on this another year recognizing the founding of this great institution. I am particularly and very personally grateful because of the great personal benefit that I have been given by this school.

This is the 100th year of Moody Radio, and some of you may not know this, but during the early days of our ministry, most of the radio stations in America would not accept an African American broadcaster. Moody Radio was the first network that opened their doors to me that allowed me to be on radio. And so over all of these years, you have helped the word of God to go forth now worldwide because you opened the door that many others kept closed under George Sweeting.

And I am very grateful for that beginning with you. And many, many times I've had the privilege of coming here to minister at various events and special classes and the many opportunities that this school has given me. And so I am personally, personally grateful to be here with you today.

Now, when I was reminded that this was the 100th anniversary of Moody Radio, actually what I did was I called the school and asked, could I be the speaker? I said to the president, I would really like to be the speaker this week because, you know, of my special gratitude to Moody Radio. But I was a little bit disheartened because they called me back and said, well, you know, it's been a few years since you've been here, and we're not sure that you still can live up to the homiletical capacity to satisfy our current student body. And we really don't want to take that risk.

So I was a little bit evangelically ticked off when they told me that. I said, look, I'm really grateful for Moody Radio. I really want to come speak.

They said, well, send us a CD. Let's see how you're improving in your homiletical skills. I sent them a CD.

They listened to it. I got a call. They said, you're improving.

But you have to understand, this is a new president. We're moving to a new level. And we're just not sure that you can satisfy where Moody is right now, where it's going.

So I began to beg them. I said, please, I really, I really want to come and speak. It's OK.

Send one more CD. We need to hear something else. So I put together another sermon and sent it to them.

Got a call again. You know, we appreciate it. We know your heart's right.

But this is Moody Bible, and we're just not sure you're ready yet. I said, I'll come for free. They said, now you're ready.

So I'm very grateful for this opportunity to be with you. You know, we live in a day of many kinds of celebrations. You know, celebrations are everywhere.

We celebrate a lot of different things. We celebrate births and birthdays. We celebrate special times of the year, Christmas, Thanksgiving.

We celebrate graduations. We celebrate home decorations. We we find reasons to celebrate.

We celebrate personalities, people who have accomplished great things. That leads to various kinds of celebrations. Celebrations are festive memories that we highlight and that we elevate.

It brings out the opportunity to express our excitement and delightment at a person, place, thing, or event. And this Founders Week is a time of celebration. It's a time of being able to rejoice at a history of a great school, a great founder, and where God has brought you.

Celebrations matter. God is big on celebrations. There are celebrations in Scripture.

When the children of Israel came through the Red Sea and God parted the waters and destroyed Pharaoh and his army, they broke out in a celebration and song. Miriam took with her all of the ladies and they danced and they celebrated at the victory that God had given them. When the prodigal son came home and the father, who is representative of God, threw a party, threw a celebration, and they talk about the angels celebrating when the prodigal comes back home.

And of course, you find in the book of Revelation, celebrations galore. In fact, the glory of heaven will be nonstop celebration. There's going to be so much celebration in glory, God is going to cancel nights so that we don't miss the party.

It's going to be forever celebration of our great eternal state and our great God. So celebration is a very valuable and important part of everyday life, but it is also an important part of what God wants for his people. And so as I'm here tonight and we're celebrating 100 years of Moody Radio and all of the years of Moody Bible Institute, there is one thing that is consistent in our celebration, and that is our great God.

Our great God is worth celebrating. And so I just thought what we would talk about today is celebrating God. Celebrating God because he is the star of the show.

Now, when you celebrate somebody, you want to make sure that they're worth celebrating, because we live in a day of saccharine celebrities. Those are celebrity substitutes, people who want the attention but who are not worth the celebration. But that's not true of our great God.

He is worthy to be celebrated. And so since this is the 100th year of Moody Radio, I thought we would celebrate by looking at Psalm 100, because Psalm 100 in this 100th year is a psalm of celebration, because our God is worth celebrating. He goes into the first two verses and he makes the call to celebrate.

He says, shout joyfully to the Lord all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful singing.

In other words, it's time to celebrate. He says, I want you to shout joyfully to the Lord. In other words, I want your voices to be heard.

This is not time for a quiet, private celebration, although there are times for that. He says, I'm calling you to a public display and everybody ought to hear it. He says, I want you to shout joyfully to the Lord.

Now, the reason why you ought to shout and you ought to get excited about God is because he is worthy to be celebrated. He is worthy for you to shout about. If you've not shouted about God lately, you haven't celebrated God fully, because until your worship becomes a shout, you're not finished worshiping yet.

He says, I want you to shout to the Lord. You know, back in the day, when we ran across people that had accomplished a lot, when I was growing up, we would say something like, that dude is heavy. In other words, that athlete or that intellect had some juice on them.

They had some weight on them. And we would say that person was heavy. Then we graduated to, he or she was awesome.

We went from heavy to awesome. Then we moved from heavy to, that dude is bad. That means good for you white folk who don't know that.

That dude is bad. We went from heavy to awesome to bad. Then we graduated from bad to beast.

We went from the person being heavy to them being awesome to them being bad to them being a beast. That means that they are operating at a whole nother level. Then we graduated from beast to being a goat.

The greatest of all times. So we went from heavy to awesome to bad to beast to goat. In other words, you have reached the top of the pyramid when you become the goat.

Well the reason why you ought to shout about God is that he's all that and a bag of chips. He's the goat. And when you run across the goat.

Now, the reason why God is the goat, the greatest of all times, if he was looking for somebody greater, he'd have to come back to himself because he couldn't find what he was looking for. Because he's in a class all by himself. And when you think about a God like that, it ought to make you want to shout.

He says, I want you to shout joyfully to the Lord. In other words, somebody ought to hear what you got to say about God. And the reason why we know he wants somebody to hear what you have to say about God is he says, I want you to shout all you lands.

Now he's talking to his worshippers, but he says, I want your worship to be so voluminous. I want your worship to be so exciting that the land hears how you feel about me. If nobody knows how you feel about God, but you, you ain't finished your worship yet.

Because your worship is supposed to extend beyond you so other people hear you talking about the God to whom you say you are committed. He says, I want you to shout with excitement to the Lord. I want you to raise it up, and I want you to pull up the thermostat so it gets hot in here for the fire you have for the God you serve.

If God has not lit you up yet, then you haven't run into the goat yet. Because when you run into the goat, you're going to be lit, and you will not be able to keep it to yourself. Somebody ought to shout to the Lord and let it be known how you feel about him.

He says, shout to the Lord. Now, okay, the Chicago Bears are having a good year so far. So far, y'all are doing pretty good.

And y'all have something this year, unlike Dallas, to shout about. Let's look at what makes you shout when you look at your home football team, okay? Did you know that every football game only has 17 minutes of actual contact? Every football game only has 17 minutes where somebody is touching the ball when the ball is in play. So that 17 minutes is part of a one-hour experience.

Every football game is one hour, but you're only watching it for 17 minutes. But you have to watch it for 17 minutes while you see a one-hour game, but you have to sit for a three-hour experience. So you got to sit for three hours to watch one hour, but you're only going to see 17 minutes.

If you go to the game and work through the parking and walk up to the stadium, that's going to be two hours where you sit for three hours, where you watch one hour so you can see 17 minutes. Then when you leave the game, you got to work through the crowd, get in the car, work through the traffic to get home in order to spend seven hours where you sit for three hours to watch one hour to see 17 minutes. Then you got the nerve when you get home to turn on the NFL Network or SportsCenter to review what you spent seven hours where you sat three hours to watch one hour to see 17 minutes.

Then you got the nerve on Monday to talk at work about what they did on Sunday because you were so engaged in it. Now, if you can spend all that time for folk who are up this week and down this week, who are unfaithful in your ability to depend on what they're going to do from you week to week, you ought to be making a lot of noise about how you feel about God. He says, shout joyfully to the Lord.

Many sports teams are getting more noise than our Creator because we let it be known how we feel about Him. Everybody else is coming out the closet. You might as well come out too.

People ought to know where you stand. This is not a day for secret agent Christians, spiritual CIA representatives, and covert operatives. We need some folk who are going to make a big deal about a big God and who are not too ashamed to let it be known where you stand.

He says, I want you to shout joyfully to the Lord. I want God to be celebrated. I want God to be recognized.

I want Him to be appreciated because He's the goat. And that is He's in a class by Himself. He goes on and He says, I want you to serve the Lord with gladness.

In other words, don't pout when you got to give me some time. Don't pout when you got to give me some attention. Don't pout when I need you to jump in to do something that advances my name.

He says, I want you to be glad for the opportunity to come on my team and serve me. See, today we live in a day of worship selfish, not worship service, where people want to come to be served, but not to serve our great God. He says, if you understand who we're talking about, you ought to serve the Lord with gladness.

You know, when I was a boy growing up and I'd come home playing football for two days. Two days, you have two practices in one day. So, I mean, it would beat you up.

You'd be tired. So I come home and I didn't want my mother to ask me to do anything. So I come and say, oh boy, I'm so tired.

I think I'll go upstairs and rest. My mother would say, boy, you better get your ugly self up here and here and do this work I told you to do or wash these dishes or whatever it was. I said, but mama, you don't understand.

I'm tired. I'm tired. I'm tired.

We had two a day. She said, did you just tell me you were tired? She said, boy, let me explain something. If tiredness was a criteria of function, your breakfast wouldn't be cooked.

Your lunch wouldn't be made. Your dinner wouldn't be ready. Your clothes wouldn't be cleaned.

In fact, boy, if tiredness was a criteria of function, I'd have gotten rid of you the day after you were born. What she was trying to tell me is that you can't get all the benefits of the house and incur no responsibility to the house. And you just can't get all the goodness of the goat and incur no responsibility to our great God.

He says, I want you to shout joyfully to the Lord. And I want you to serve him with gladness. I want you to come alongside and I want you to make it known that you represent the King of Kings, the Lord of Lord with your voice and with your service.

It ought to be clear that your life is lived to make a big deal about a big God. He says, serve the Lord with gladness. In other words, it ought to excite you to serve the goat.

It ought to bring you joy to make a big deal about a big God. You know, when you go like Saks Fifth Avenue in New York, they have dummies on display because they got these big windows and these are dummies on display. These dummies are good looking dummies.

I mean, they got dressed up dummies. I saw a dummy one day in Saks in a Ferrari. I mean, this was a successful dummy.

Okay. Okay. It was a mannequin on display.

Okay. But the reason why the owners of Saks put the mannequin on display is they knew there were dummies like me walking up Fifth Avenue. And what they wanted was one dummy to appeal to another dummy to leave the street and come into Saks because in Saks there's so much more of what's available if I would just be drawn in for the dummies on display.

Did you know you are a dummy on display? That God has saved you and redeemed you to put you on display so that you can attract people from this world to the world to come, so that you can attract people to our great God, so they can come in contact with the one who's put you on display with your shout and with your service, so that beyond you, all you lands, people are coming in contact with our God. He says, I want you to serve the Lord with gladness. You know, we're living in this political season where everybody's trying to get your vote.

Everybody's trying to get you to come on their side. Well, if you can put a placard in your yard and a bumper sticker on your car for all the losers that are running for election, you ought to be able to put a placard on your life for your association with our great God. He says it's time to celebrate.

It's time to make a big deal about a big God. It's a call to celebration. Worship is fine, but you can worship silently.

You can worship in your heart. And there is a place for your personal quiet time and your personal time with God. But what he's calling for in this 100th year of Moody Radio, because it's blasting everywhere, is I want you to blast everywhere for me.

I don't want anybody guessing where you stand with me. I want, if you are accused of being a follower of mine, you to be found guilty of all charges, because you make it absolutely clear by your shout that you are associated with me. So it is a call to celebratory worship.

It is a call to voluminous worship. It is a call to celebrate what God has done. Now, that's the call to worship.

Now, he gives you next the cause of worship. He says in verse three, 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. He says, I don't want you to celebrate for no reason. He says, I'm going to give you good reason to celebrate.

I want your emotions, but I don't want emotionalism. Emotion is how you are emoting, feeling about something that draws your heart, your mind, and your energy toward it. When a team scores a touchdown, you show your emotion.

But emotionalism is when you're jumping up and nothing happened. In other words, you're just giving a reaction to nothingness. He says, no, you've got a reason to get excited about me.

I ought to excite you. He says, what should excite you is knowing that the Lord is God. Oh, listening friend, what a wonderful reminder that our great God deserves our praise.

But we're not finished. Tomorrow, Dr. Tony Evans will help us discover something fascinating about the names of God and why understanding who he really is gives us even greater reason to celebrate. You've been hearing a special message from Moody Bible Institute's Founders Week 2026, as hosted in Chicago two weeks ago.

And remember, you can hear today's program again and explore transcripts, scriptures, key takeaways, and additional ministry resources under the Mark & Friends tab at GreatNewsRadio.org or WLUJ.org. Thanks for listening. Thanks for being

a part of our radio listening family. This is Mark Burns with the Ministry of Great News Media.

God bless you and have a great day and night. God bless you.