Know the Lord: Celebrating His Power, Provision, and Faithfulness

Dr. Tony Evans on Psalm 100, the Names of God, Gratitude, and Faith Across Generations

Dr. Tony Evans | Wednesday, November 4, 2026 | Host: Mark Burns

Program Summary

On this Wednesday edition of Mark & Friends, Dr. Tony Evans concludes his Founders Week 2026 message celebrating Moody Radio's 100th anniversary. Beginning with Psalm 100:3, he explores the names Elohim and Yahweh, emphasizing God's power as Creator and His personal, covenantal relationship with His people. Using a television in the kitchen versus a large screen in the den, he challenges listeners to give God the center of their attention. He then compares the rearview mirror, side mirrors, and windshield to God's faithfulness in the past, His provision in the present, and His purposes for the future. Stories about his daughter and family dog reinforce that God is the source of all we have. Psalm 100:4–5 leads to thanksgiving and audible praise, with examples from Jehoshaphat, Paul and Silas, the grateful leper, and Jesus feeding the multitude. Dr. Evans closes by calling believers to celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness across generations.

Key Takeaways

• Psalm 100 calls believers to know the Lord, not merely speak about God in vague terms.

• Dr. Evans uses Elohim to emphasize God's creative power and Yahweh to emphasize His covenantal relationship with His people.

• God deserves central attention rather than an occasional glance amid other priorities.

• Remember God's faithfulness in the past without becoming trapped in nostalgia.

• Recognize His present provision and trust Him with the future.

• Everything we possess and accomplish ultimately depends on God's generosity.

• Thanksgiving acknowledges what God has done; praise declares His greatness.

• Biblical accounts of praise amid trouble encourage believers to turn to God in adversity.

• God's faithfulness extends from generation to generation because He remains true to His character.

• Our gratitude and witness should be evident in everyday life, not confined to worship gatherings.

Scripture References

• Psalm 100:1–5

• Genesis 1:1

• Genesis 2:4

• James 1:17

• 2 Chronicles 20:12–22

• Acts 16:22–26

• Luke 17:11–19

• John 6:1–13

• Psalm 78:4

Quote of the Day

“You’ve got to look in the rearview mirror, but you can’t live in it.” — Dr. Tony Evans

Broadcast Notes

Mark introduces Part Two of Dr. Tony Evans' Founders Week message, following Tuesday's call to celebrate God with joyful praise and glad service. Dr. Evans discusses Hebrew divine names as part of his sermon interpretation and illustrates the difference between a peripheral and central relationship with God. His driving analogy connects yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He describes family experiences to illustrate dependence on God's provision. The sermon then considers thanksgiving, spoken praise, and God's faithfulness across generations. Scriptural episodes are discussed as examples of praise in difficult circumstances. Mark closes by pointing listeners to the archive and additional ministry resources. The transcript preserves the speaker's informal illustrations and theological interpretations.

❤■ Practical Applications

• Read Psalm 100 slowly and identify a reason for thanksgiving in each verse.

• Set aside a few undistracted minutes to put God at the center of my attention.

• Write down one way God was faithful in my past.

• Name a provision I am receiving from Him in the present.

• Pray about a future concern and entrust it to His guidance.

• Thank someone through whom God has blessed my life.

• Speak a sincere word of praise to God even in a difficult season.

• Share one story of God's faithfulness with someone younger.

• Serve another person with gladness rather than obligation.

• Ask whether my words and actions make God's goodness visible to others.

Today's Challenge

For seven days, practice Psalm 100 with three daily reflections: look BACK and thank God for a past evidence of faithfulness; look AROUND and notice His provision today; look AHEAD and entrust one future concern to Him. Then express gratitude aloud or encourage someone with a story of God's goodness.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You are my Creator, Sustainer, and faithful Provider. Forgive me when I give You only a passing glance instead of the attention and love You deserve. Help me remember Your faithfulness in the past without becoming stuck there. Open my eyes to Your provision today, and teach me to trust You with what lies ahead. Let thanksgiving fill my heart and sincere praise flow from my lips, even when life is difficult. Give me opportunities to tell others of Your goodness and to encourage the next generation to follow Jesus. Keep me grounded in Your Word and confident in Your unchanging character. In Jesus' name, Amen.

About Today's Speaker

Dr. Tony Evans is a pastor, Bible teacher, author, and founder of The Urban Alternative. He founded Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas, and is widely known for his radio ministry, The Alternative. In this Founders Week 2026 message marking Moody Radio's centennial, he teaches from Psalm 100 about God's greatness, provision, and enduring faithfulness.

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. With decades of experience in Christian radio and ministry, he brings Scripture-centered teaching, testimony, and conversations to listeners with the mission to educate, edify, and evangelize.

Proofread Broadcast Transcript

We're glad you're here. We're glad you're here. Fellowship sweeter.

Knowing you're here. It's so good to see you. We hope that it's clear.

Everyone loves you. We're glad you're here. Reading from Psalm 100, verse 3. Know that the Lord is God.

It is He who made us and we are His. Psalm 100, verse 3. O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together. It's Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, and welcome to Mark & Friends.

Yesterday, Dr. Tony Evans challenged us to celebrate our great God with joyful praise and glad service. Today we'll discover what the names of God reveal about His character, His power, and His personal relationship with us. Let's continue this special Founders Week message celebrating Moody Radio's 100th anniversary.

Here's Dr. Tony Evans picking up where we left off yesterday. What should excite you is knowing that the Lord is God. Why does he say that? Why does he say that this knowledge, that the Lord is God, ought to excite you? In verse 1 and 2, because of the information He gives you in verse 3. Well, He does something very interesting, which is done throughout the Scripture, particularly throughout the Psalms, and that is knitting together names.

Now, there is some 80 names for God in the Scripture. There's some 80 names that identify Him. When God wanted to show something about Himself, He would name Himself.

And the reason He would name Himself is so that you could discover something new about Himself. So the way we discover things about God is by discovering all the various names He uses in the Scriptures that identify something unique about Himself that you may not have known otherwise, but in a life situation, which is where most of the new names come from, He describes something about Himself that will take you and excite you more about Him, which will give you something to shout about. In this case, He says, I want you to know that the Lord is God.

So those are just two names, and those names are found throughout the Scripture, but since He twins those names together, and that knowledge ought to excite you, let's review those two names, since He partners those two names to make the point about the knowledge that ought to bring you the excitement that will make you want to shout. And when you understand the name and you still can sit down, that means you don't understand the name because you're still sitting down. Because if you understood the name, He says the name will make you shout.

He says, I want you to understand that the Lord is God. Well, the word God is Elohim, and Elohim, of course, is the name of God introduced to us in Genesis 1. In the beginning, Elohim created the heavens and the earth. Elohim is the only name used in Genesis 1 because that's God's, I'll call it His power name.

That's His ex nihilo name. That's His ability to do something when there's no raw material to work with. That's God's ability to create everything out of nothing.

And so all God does as Elohim is speak. And God said, let there be, and of course, everything that was created was created by Elohim. So everybody wants Elohim because everybody uses the name of God to express power about something in creation or life.

The problem when all you say is God is we may not know which God you're talking about. You see, the Muslims say God, and all of the different religions or most of them will say God. He says, but I want you to know the Lord God.

Now you can discover the word Lord with two different spellings in the Bible. There's capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D, and there's capital L, small o, small r, small d. Those are typically two different Hebrew words. Capital L, small o, small r, small d will be typically Adonai.

Capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D is usually Yahweh or Jehovah. So what He wants you to know is not just Elohim. He wants you to know that capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D is Elohim.

He wants you to know the Lord is Elohim. Well, we're introduced to capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D in Genesis 2, verse 4. You will not find that word in Genesis 1. In Genesis 1, all you get is Elohim. But in Genesis 2, verse 4, you get capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D. And beginning there, it will say the Lord God, the Lord God, the Lord God, the Lord God.

Because now God is creating man. And when He creates man, He's creating relationship. And when He creates relationship, He wants to combine it with power.

So you only get Elohim if you're willing to deal with Yahweh. If you're not willing to deal with Yahweh, you don't have access to the benefits of Elohim. See, everybody wants God, but not everybody wants Lord.

And because everybody doesn't want Lord, they don't understand why they're not getting God. They don't understand why they're not getting Elohim, because they've dismissed Lord or Yahweh. That's why when the devil shows up in Genesis chapter 3, he says, Hath God said? Because he doesn't mind you having Elohim as long as you don't have Yahweh.

He doesn't mind you talking about God as long as he's so vague you don't know which God you're talking about. He says, I'm going to give you my covenantal name, my relational contact, because my relational contact, which is where the word covenant comes from in the Bible, is the relational capital that brings you into the Elohim experience. So if you believe in Elohim and you're connected with Yahweh, you have access to the benefits of Elohim because you know Yahweh in personal relationship.

So everybody who's come to Christ in relationship has now access to Elohim, so you can now expect and celebrate what God can do because you know the God who can pull it off. He says, I want you to know, and when you know that, that ought to excite you. It ought to excite you that the power of God I am related to, I have access to, and when I have access to the true God, oh, that make a brother want to shout.

So he says, I want you to know that the Lord is God. I want you to celebrate my reality and my existence because you're in relationship. See what most Christians do, or many Christians, have God like a TV in the kitchen.

If you have a TV in the kitchen, that means you look at it while you do other things. You cook, you wash the dishes, you eat. In other words, you glance at it in the kitchen.

But if you have the big screen in the den, that's when you go sit down because in the den is where the focus is. See, far too many people have God in the kitchen of their lives. They glance at Him while they do other things.

But He wants to be in the den of your existence so you get a big screen picture of who He is and what He can do. And when you know the Lord, He is God, He's going to excite you. And the reason we don't shout is we don't know the Lord is God.

We just stay with God generic, not God center stage. And when God is center stage, you can't keep it to yourself. And so He says, I want you to know that the Lord is God.

He says, It is He who has made us and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. He wants you to celebrate not only because of His creation but because of His provision.

When you celebrate this Founders Week, when you celebrate 100 years of Moody Radio, we can look in three different directions. You know, when you're driving a car, you've got three different directions that you look at. Direction number one is the rearview mirror.

The rearview mirror shows you your history. Your history is what's behind you, what's in the past. The rearview mirror is critical because you can see yesterday.

And that's what you're being reminded of, that Moody Bible has a tremendous rearview mirror. You've got a rearview mirror of D.L. Moody. You've got a rearview mirror of a great evangelist.

You've got a rearview mirror of the start of this school. You've got great lessons and even the devotional in the book that they're making available to you with D.L. Moody's name. There are truths that come from him that are still valuable today.

That is, this school is built on something. And at Founders Week, you're being reminded of the rearview mirror. You didn't get here out of nowhere.

You got here because of somewhere. That God had a man who has made himself available to be used, and that gives you a rearview mirror. But when you're driving, you can't live in the rearview mirror because if you do, you're going to have an accident.

You've got to look in the rearview mirror, but you can't live in it. But the second set of mirrors are on both sides of the car. Now, those mirrors are showing what's beside you.

You've got the rearview mirror that shows you what's behind you, and you've got the side mirrors that shows you what's around you. You can see cars on this side and cars on that side because you see what's around you. That shows you what's happening right now, what's pulling up alongside you.

And as I heard this choir, as I see this crowd, as I heard about the 900 or 1,100 students you have, the 80 professors, the property that God has you in right now, you can see that God didn't just do something yesterday. He's doing something right now. Right now, you've got something to shout about because he's still working with the sheep that are grazing on the pasture.

So you can look behind you. You can see the mirrors around you, but then there's that big piece of mirror in front of you, and that's called the windshield because the windshield is where you're going. And guess what? The windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror, and the windshield is bigger than the side mirrors because where you're going is going to be bigger than where you came from, and where you're going is going to be bigger than where you are.

So you've got to look at what's behind you. You've got to know what's around you, but you've got to look also where God is taking you. Don't be satisfied with where you are, but trust God for where you're going because God has a plan that will take you further than where you are, which is why you can't live.

See, living in the rearview mirror will give you a still photograph. Living in the windshield will give you an IMAX because that shows you the moving picture of God. That shows you that God is the generational God.

He's not only the God for D.O. Moody yesterday. He's the God for you as a graduate today, you as a saint today. And when you understand He's got a windshield for you, that makes you want to shout.

That makes you want to celebrate that God has a future for you. He has a tomorrow for you. He has a vision for you.

He has something He wants to accomplish through you. He has something He wants you to do. He doesn't want Moody Bible Institute to be a museum or to just be a memorial.

He wants it to be something that continues to transform lives by the will and the Word of God for maximum impact in the culture. And when you understand that God wants to use you, that's something to celebrate. He says there's a call to worship, but there is the celebration of worship.

And He says you have to understand that you are grazing on my pasture. Anything you do belongs to me because you're a sheep on my pasture. You know, Priscilla, the older sister, is named Crystal.

And we had a little teenage conflict, okay? Teenage conflict. Parents often have problems with their teenagers because when the teenagers get to be teenagers, they want to be independent, but they can't pay for it. See, they want to be on their own, but they can't afford it.

So me and Crystal were having a little problem. We were having a little disagreement in the house, and we got to a little boiling point, you know? And in the middle of the conversation, she turned her back and stormed off away from me. Oh, no, she didn't.

In the middle of what I was saying, she turned her back on me, stormed away from me. I said, where you think you're going? She said, I'm going to my room, to which I said, oh, no, you're going to my room that I might let you sleep in. In other words, don't think like you own anything up in here just because I let you be here.

God doesn't want you to think you own a thing. We are sheep on His pasture. This is His program for His kingdom and His glory.

You know, we had a dog. We had a dog named Solomon. And Solomon, we took care of Solomon.

One day, I put food in his bowl, and I reached down, and I must have got too close to the bowl, and Solomon went, Did I just hear that? He went, because I was trying to fix his bowl, but he thought I was messing with his food. He growled at me. He doesn't understand how this works.

The only reason you have a bowl, food in the bowl, water in the bowl next to it, and you ain't out there in the street fighting for your life is because I have faithfully provided for you. Solomon forgot that I was his source, and he was acting like he was feeding himself. It is not we who have made us.

And when you understand every good and perfect gift comes from above, when you understand that God is your source, it ought to make you want to shout and want to celebrate our great God. And so, he says there is a reason to celebrate God. He is your creator, your maker, your sustainer, your provider, whether you're looking back, whether you're looking around, and you certainly better keep looking forward because God is not finished yet with what he wants to do.

Having said, there's a call to celebrate. Having said, there's a reason to celebrate. He says now it's time to communicate when you celebrate.

And he comes to verse 4 and 5, and he says, Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good, his loving kindness is everlasting, and his faithfulness endures to all generations.

He says it's time to get your praise on. He says thanksgiving and praise. Thanksgiving is expression of gratitude.

It says I recognize what you have done for me. I recognize all I am and all I have has been a gift from heaven into my history. Praise is expression of worship.

You can worship in your heart, but you praise with your mouth. Praise is declaring it. Now, the reason that praise is important is because scripture says that God inhabits the praises of his people.

In other words, when he knows you're not keeping it to yourself, when he knows that you are exclaiming and celebrating him, he pays extra attention. He responds to praise. If you don't believe me, check with Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles chapter 20.

When he had a problem too big for him to handle. In fact, he said, and we don't know what to do in verse 12. I got a situation in my life that I don't know how to reverse.

And he called all the people together, and the Bible says, and they opened their mouths and praised in the midst of a problem, giving blessing to God. And then the text says, and when God heard their praise, now, they had already prayed. Jehoshaphat had already called the people to talk to God.

But when they were praising about God, and he says, and he heard their praise because it was public praise. It says he ambushed the enemy. So one of the reasons you don't want to keep quiet is you want God to tune in to your praise.

And that's why you want to celebrate God. If you don't believe in the power of gratitude and praise, all you got to do is ask Paul and Silas in prison in Acts chapter 16. They're incarcerated in chains, but at midnight we're told they got their praise on.

And they went public with their exclamation and celebration of God. And when they went public with their celebration of God, the Bible says the earth shook and the chains fell off. If you got some chains on your life, are you public enough for God to tune in and to hear that you're not ashamed to be associated with him? If you don't believe me, ask Luke chapter 17, the lepers.

God healed 10, but only one came back. And the Bible says, and the one who came back fell down and with a loud voice, he blessed the Lord and gave glory to God. And when Jesus heard the loud voice of praise, not bombastic, but clearly verbal, it

says God says, well, I'm not only going to heal your body, I'm going to heal the rest of your life because you were willing to go public.

In fact, he said, what happened to the other nine who walked away with the blessing, but never with the public exclamation? God wants you to shout and celebrate his glory. Even when Jesus had 5,000 men, not counting women and children, 15 to 20,000 people that he fed with a Moby Dick sandwich or going to wear a wrap. However, he did that thing.

He did that, but the Bible says he started with not enough. Philip said, how are we going to feed all these people? Andrew said, there's not enough McDonald's out here to take care of all these folks. How are we going to do this? The Bible says, bring me the little that you have.

Boy has some sardines and crackers. He brings them to Jesus Christ. And the Bible says, and Jesus blessed them and gave thanks for them.

He gave thanks for not enough. And when everybody opened up their eyes, there was more than enough with 12 goody bags left over. In other words, when you get your praise on, when you celebrate as you're doing with this 100 year anniversary, when you make a big deal about a big God, the goat, you get his attention and he moves into it.

And he says that there is a generational repercussion. And I know your theme is from generation to generation, because he says in verse five and his faithfulness to all generations. What is faithfulness on God's part? Faithfulness on God's part is that he is true to himself.

Faithfulness means you can trust him to be true to him. In other words, faithfulness is God's consistency with God. Now, I know we often talk about God's faithfulness to us, but God is faithful to us because he's faithful to him.

It is his consistency with him which makes him dependable for him being consistent with you. So the more you know how he feels about himself, the better you are to plug into that, because however he feels about himself becomes a benefit to you. So if you don't know how God feels about God, you won't understand how he can be and has been and will be faithful to you.

And that's why you need what Moody Bible has given, the Word. Because what the Word of God does is tell you how God feels about God. And the more you learn about how God feels about God and how faithful he is to believe in himself, the more you can believe in that same God to be faithful to you without compromising himself, because he's going to be true to himself while he's watching after you.

So faithfulness is God's consistency to be true to himself. And he says it's generational. He's faithful to the generations.

I'm trying to tell you God is worth shouting about. This is not a time to be quiet about your Christian faith. We are living in a culture that has abandoned God.

We're living in a world that no longer holds him valuable, and we don't need to be ashamed to go public. This is not a time for private Christianity. This is a day to be totally clear about where you stand and about the God you serve and, of course, the Savior that we worship and the Word of God that we are committed to.

We're living in a world of lies. We're living in a world of deception, and they need a word of truth. Shout to the Lord.

Let your voice be heard. If you appreciate who God is and you have seen what God can do, give it up. But don't just, but watch this.

Don't just give it up for you. Give it up when you go to work tomorrow. Give it up in school.

Give it up in the marketplace. Give it up in the culture. Let them know, do you know what my God just did? Do you know who my God is? Give it up.

Join me in celebrating God because our God is worthy of your shout. So give it up. He is worthy to be praised.

What an encouraging message from Dr. Tony Evans. That was from Thursday night's session of Founders Week 2026, Moody Bible Institute's annual conference. You can find more information or listen to some of the other sessions on social media or at foundersweek.org. Again, that's foundersweek.org. Listening friend, what a wonderful reminder that our great God is worthy of our praise.

He's been faithful in the past. He's at work today, and we can trust him with our future. And may we never stop celebrating his goodness.

You've been listening to Mark & Friends. Hear today's program again, read the transcript, and explore 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.