

Worship In The Psalms

Introduction. Worship is the feeling of adoration extended toward God. Man, the inferior, prostrates himself before God, the Superior. Worship goes back as far as man, reflecting his deep-seated need to worship something (Genesis 4:3-4; cf. Genesis 4:26 ["call upon the name of the Lord"]; 22:5 [first instance of "worship"]). Jesus explained that worship involves both attitudes and actions (John 4:24). A lot of times we understand the actions or "truth" appropriately, but it is helpful to work on the "spirit" part of the passage.

The psalms were used in the ancient Israelite's worship to God. They are heartfelt sentiments of devotion and consecration to the Lord. We are going to examine some different demeanors of worship that are expressed in the psalms and see what we learn from them.

I. ***Worship God With Holiness***

- A. God will not accept worship from the unholy (Psalm 29:2; 96:7-9). The New Testament teaches the same (1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Peter 1:16).
- B. A lot of worship now is directed toward man, because unholy men offer it. Man becomes like what he worships (Hosea 9:10); therefore, he needs to worship the holy God.
- C. In order to be holy, we have to refrain from sin and mortify the sins of the flesh (Romans 6:12; Colossians 3:5). What an insult it is to God to come before Him on Sunday and go out intentionally sinning on Monday!

II. ***Worship God With Wholeness Of Heart***

- A. The Lord requires an undivided heart (Psalm 9:1; 86:12; 111:1). God wants sacrifice; He wants you to take up your cross. We should do this willingly because of what He has given to us (Matthew 16:24-25).
- B. Would there be an attendance problem during Sunday and Wednesday evening services, gospel meetings, or special classes with this attitude? Would there be a problem finding qualified teachers, elders, deacons?
- C. A divided, double-minded heart produces fatal, spiritual problems (James 4:1-4, 8). The remedy is to love God and serve Him fully with all our being (Mark 12:29-30; Acts 8:36-37; 2 Thessalonians 3:5).

III. ***Worship God With Joy***

- A. A person joyfully worshipping God will not be bored and will not always watch the clock (Psalm 9:2; 66:1; 95:1-2; 100:1-2; cf. John 15:11; Romans 14:17; 2 Corinthians 1:12).

- B. One who is joyful worshiping the Lord will never ask, "Do I have to attend all the time?" No joyful saint wants to miss services because worship is meaningful and uplifting. In fact, we would not hear of having shorter gospel meetings and shorter sermons. You will not be able to keep them out of the building!

IV. *Worship God With Regularity*

- A. The Christian, like the Israelite, should be known for their faithfulness (Psalm 34:1; 52:9; 104:33; 113:3; 145:1-2; 146:2). God has always required regular service.
 - 1. Daily sacrifices of priests.
 - 2. Weekly remembrances of the Sabbath.
 - 3. Monthly commemorations such as new moons.
 - 4. Annual feast days Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles.
- B. The local church cannot function without the reliability of its members. Ask yourself the question, "What if every member were like me?" We all need to develop and work (Ephesians 2:19-22).
- C. A desire to permanently worship God insures against casting off God later in life (Proverbs 22:6). Parents need to take special note: Your children will watch what you are and their faithfulness will depend largely on yours (Deuteronomy 6:4-6).

V. *Worship God With Thankfulness*

- A. We cannot thank God too much for everything we have received (Psalm 69:30; 75:1; 92:1; 100:4; 106:1; 107:1-2; 118:1, 29).
- B. Gratitude to God will have a positive effect on our worship. Every part of it, such as singing, prayers, giving, partaking the Lord's supper, and studying the word, needs to be imbibed with this spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Timothy 2:1; Hebrews 13:15).
- C. Reflecting on the giving of God's Son should instill genuine thankfulness for all God has done (John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Romans 5:15).

VI. *Worship God With Reverence*

- A. The psalms are a "call to arms" to serve God with reverence and fear (Psalm 5:7; 89:7; 112:1). The "God-fearer" will implement his fear in practical righteousness.
- B. This attitude will cause us to be more careful about our actions during the assembly such talking, laughing, passing notes, texting, playing with babies, unnecessary movement in and out of the auditorium, etc.
 - 1. When God made a covenant with Abraham, he had to guard against birds of prey coming to ruin his sacrifice (Genesis 15:11).

2. There are "birds of prey" that we have to watch too lest they ruin our sacrifice of praise: an unfocused mind, an unfocused heart.
- C. Irreverence demonstrates that one is not of God. Your very manner of life has to demonstrate "reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

Conclusion. If you will let them into your heart, these psalms will give you all the guidance you need to prepare your heart to worship God. David loved the Lord's house because it was where His glory dwelled (Psalm 26:8).

When you consider the time we have to give to other pursuits, we spend so little time together worshiping the Lord. If you are here every time it only adds up to about 1/10 of the time you work! Let's make the time we do have edifying to us and proper toward God. Let's put forth a zeal and constancy that maybe we have not known before. Let's demonstrate to those without that worship is meaningful.