

Psalm 92 – Worship: How and Why?

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night, 3 On an instrument of ten strings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound.
4 For You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

The Psalmist declares here for us that it is good to give thanks to the Lord - sing praises

A) To declare his loving Kindness in the morning and his faithfulness every night

B) And do it with Musical instruments

C) There is something special and amazing when the people of God come together to worship the Lord!

Notice how the Psalmist describes it in V.12-15

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
14 They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,
15 To declare that the Lord is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

I love this passage: Those who plant themselves in house of Lord, for the purpose of offering praise to the Lord will be like palm tree & Cedar tree

A) Powerful truth presented here by the using the analogy of being planted like Palm trees/ Cedar trees

B) See Palm trees stand tall in the sunshine – found in hot weather **Dessert regions**

C) Cedar trees in Contrast thrive in the Mountains & forest /

1) where the climate can change drastically – snow & cold

The point is: the person who Plants himself in the house of the Lord

A) for the purpose of giving thanks -singing praises & declaring His lovingkindness in the morning, And faithfulness every night,

B) Those people will flourish & bear fruit in every season of their lives & even in their Old age !!!!
1) Great Promise !!!!!

C) So today - I want us to consider this idea of worship - The Why and the How
1) Why do we do it? - How are we to engage in it correctly - as individuals and as a church family

Taking notes - 4 reasons why we worship

#1 Worship delights our heavenly father

The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet you with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”
Zephaniah 3:17

Isn't that an amazing thought - when we gather together like this - God is in our midst

A) He is rejoicing over us with gladness - with Singing

B) My Son Aaron and his wife and my Grandson Jack are in town from OKC

1) Aaron is preaching next week - (awesome)

C) This week we are all getting away for a few days -

1) All 3 of my kids - their families - grandkids

When we are all together - I love to sit back watch my adult kids interact - laughing - hanging

A) Now watching their kids interacting - Amazing

B) Big smile on my face - it is right!

C) That is how God feels when we gather like this - all his kids - this is right

Psalm 22:3 Tells us that God inhabits the praises of his people

A) Inhabits means - he is enthroned in our praises
Comes in here - sets up his throne

B) Now don't get the idea that God - shows up and is enthroned - but is in some way insecure

1) So he needs us to tell him how great he is

C) Tell me More - keep going - yes - NO - God is not like that at all.

1) He is very secure in himself - He doesn't need our praise or validation

We are that way: My Grandson Josiah - the oldest of the 3 only one talking - very affectionate

A) He lives with us - so he will often - not quite daily but often - come up hug - I love you Popi

B) So Blesses me - to hear him say that! - I love that little guy so much

C) But when several days go by and he hasn't said - Popi I love you.

1) I will bring him close and whisper in his ear - I love you Josiah ☺ waiting.....

D) I need that validation - warms my heart - And I know there is a day coming - not say it much

1) Teenager - I will no longer be cool

E) So I want to hear it as much as possible now!

But that is not how God operates - He is totally secure in who He is

A) So why does our Worship bless him - why does he delight in it so much.

B) The Answer is in what it does for us

C) Colossians 1:16 **all things were created by him, and for him:**

Revelation 4:11 **"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created."**

We were made to live in an intimate relationship with God - Sin destroyed the intimacy

A) In Genesis Adam and God walked together....

B) Sin created a wall of separation

C) Jesus came to bring down that wall - bring us back into relationship with God

D) Fellowship restored - but there is still a distance.

God doesn't physically come and show up and walk with us like he did with Adam

A) With us in Spirit - but we can't see him - touch him or even feel him in the fullest degree

B) But when we engage in the worship of God it is the closest thing that we can experience here on earth to intimacy with him

C) The word in the NT for worship is the word Proskuneo - it literally means to turn and Kiss

D) When we are engaging in worship - it is as if we are turning to give God a Kiss

In John Chapter 4 Jesus has a conversation about worship with a Samaritan woman

A) In that Conversation Jesus makes this statement

John 4:23,24 *The true worshippers are those who worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth....the father is seeking such to worship Him*

B) In Spirit = in Sincerity - the right heart - not just going through the motions

C) In truth is according to the word of God

Note that phrase God is seeking those who will worship Him in that way.

A) We gather he comes looking for true worshippers

B) It delights him because we are taking full advantage of the relationship he made a way for us to have in sending Jesus to die in our place

C) It delights him because we are valuing that relationship

D) It delights him because he knows it has a way of centering us and putting life in perspective

Our whole lives we are constantly battling - to put self on the throne to live for ourselves

A) God knows that is empty and unfulfilling because self is never satisfied

B) But when we worship - we are saying - God you are the king - I exist for you - not you for me

1) That is the best thing for us

C) So #1 Worship is good - because it delights our heavenly father

#2 Worship develops our church family.

When we come together I often think of the different types of people who call this their Church Home

B) All different ages/ People from different Ethnic backgrounds / economic backgrounds / family backgrounds,

1) But all of that gets put aside in Jesus & it is seen the most lift our Hearts & voices in worship

C) When people get together and say: *"We are here to worship the Lord and express our love for Him," there is an interesting thing that happens.*

1) There is this unity & this togetherness that Happens that is so very sweet

There is a Neat example of this in 2 Chron. 5 Turn

2 Chronicles 5:13 It came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were AS ONE TO MAKE ONE SOUND to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," and the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, ¹⁴so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

D) What is it that brought them into oneness? They came together to acknowledge the goodness of the Lord. – **God Showed up in a big way**

That's what worship does - come together as one / I lose myself

A) Become a part of something bigger than me.

B) 1 Peter**Living stones - built up spiritual house, offer sacrifice of praise**

1) **Alone** – just a rock good for smashing; sinking

C) But together built up/spiritual house - offer praise

So Worship exists for the DELIGHT of our Heavenly father, it DEVELOPS our Church family/

#3 it DEFEATS our foe.

A) We see a neat picture of this in 2 Chronicles 20:

B) The army's of Ammon and Moab & Mt Seir were coming against Judah

C) King Jehosaphat of Judah was a godly king! –

1) He sought the Lord/ the Lord declared assemble the worship leaders **Have them go out ahead of the army – Singing**

D) Imagine that today - Praise band -leading us into battle

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehosaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

"Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

22 Now when they **began to sing and to praise**, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

23 For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

The Enemy was defeated when? When they began to worship!

A) So too our enemy: Satan hates worship - / Kicked out of heaven

B) See He desires people to worship him / last thing he likes to see is people worshipping God.

1) Fingers on a Chalk board / Drill in the dentist Chair / Drives him crazy – he bails the scene!

C) Satan is constantly trying to get us to put self on the throne -

1) Engage in idolatry of some kind - self / someone else – Something else

D)When we worship - we are saying - NOPE not doing that - Jesus is our King

E)Our enemy in that moment is defeated

So worship: Delights our Father/ Develops our Church family/ Defeats our foe / #4 Declares our faith.

A) Now there are 6 Hebrews words for Praise

B)And each one - gives us insight into How worship declares our faith.

The 1st word for Praise is the word Barak

A)It is used over 300 times in the OT a word that means to Bow down/ humility- **SILENTLY**

B) Barak = To Lay Prostrate / to bend / to stoop

1)It is a word that speaks of a deep Reverence !

C)I am so in AWE/ so overwhelmed - I have nothing to say -

1)All I can do is bow in reverence to my King.

Psalm 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel (Barak) before the LORD our Maker.

D)The idea is showing Humility in the Presence of God - God resist proudgrace to the humble

1)It is declaring with our voice and posture that He is the CENTER OF ATTENTION - HE is > I

“True Worship is the most selfless emotions our nature is capable of and is therefore the chief remedy for self-centeredness” - William Temple

This is the reason I believe why many people don't get involved in Worship / They are self Absorbed

A) They come to Church – focus – what can I get from God.

B)I hope the message is good – I need God speak to my heart -I need a touch

C)So worship is the last thing on their minds - their focus is totally on what are they going to get from God.

D)In reality the very act of Worship Announces the Absence of Self Centeredness

E)In Worship we are Pre-occupied w/ God – there is no other – No one else in the room –

1)**All that Matters is Him !!!!!**

2nd word is Yada means to throw out the hands: It is used in 2 Chron. 20:21 and in several of the Psalms

A) The idea w/ this word is to throw out the hands to touch the throne of God!

B) It speaks of a thankful expression of worship

3rd word Todah also involves the hands - Todah means to lift our hands - it is the most common word for thanks in Israel today.

A) It speaks of lifting the hands in thanks for what God is going to do!

B) The outward lifting of the hands speaks of the inward lifting of the heart.

1) Lam. 3:41 declares *let us lift our heart with our hands*

C) Yadah speaks of giving - Todah Anticipates receiving - daddy pick me up

1) The need or attitude of the heart is displayed in the way we lift our hands

D)Worship is meant to be a full body experience

1)Heart - mind - voice - hands

E)What are we communicating - Surrender ?

1)Honor? Need? - Intimacy - pick me up

4th Word is Zamar - speaks of instrumental praise - again used in several of the Psalms - it lit. means to touch the strings to celebrate in song

A) David as a worship leader was always inventing musical instruments to be used in worship.

3 On an instrument of ten strings, on the lute, And on the harp, with harmonious sound.

B)The Bible speaks of praising God with trumpets, flutes, horns, stringed instruments, harps

C)All the popular instruments of their day -

1)Makes sense we would use the popular instruments of our day to Worship God

D) We are told several times in Scripture to **MAKE A LOUD NOISE** in praise

1) Loud but Harmonious

5th Word is Halal - which is the most common word for praise found in the Bible - 160 times in O.T. & in 1/3 of the Psalms

A) Halal is the root of the word Hallelujah which literally means to praise the Lord.

B) Halal means to shout / to celebrate / to rave / to boast / & to sing loudly !

1) It is a word that speaks of a radical outward expression of worship- a real letting go

C) Careful not to be drawing attention to ourselves - because worship is meant to deflect attention

1) From us and on to JESUS

6th word is Shabach = to commend to triumph to glory and shout with a loud voice !

A) Now you get the idea here w/ most of these words aside from Barak/

B) that God intends worship to be a loud very expressive thing.

C) Excitement about the Lord and his presence in our lives!

D) Someone once said that Loud praise is not because God is deaf or hard of hearing - or far away ,

1) but it is because He deserves great commendation, His glory & majesty are worthy of praise

We see a very costly & expressive act of worship in John 12:

A) Mary takes a bottle of very costly perfume. Dowry – yrs wage \$10,000 dollars and pours it on Jesus.

B) It was an expression of her faith: She caught on to what everyone else missed -

1) That Jesus was going to die for them.

C) She broke a vase - Anointed him for burial –

Mary's faith was declared in her worship

A) As she anointed Jesus that day:

B) But something also happened to Mary - the fragrance that was on Jesus - was now on her

C) We could say: Everywhere that Mary went - she went smelling like JESUS

We come in here smelling like us - foul odor - or worse yet smelling like the world

A) We leave smelling like Jesus

B) Lives marked by an attitude of gratitude -

C) We know God - We are saved - Heaven

Said this on Wednesday - No place for grumpy Christians - Eyeore's - No

A) We have so much to be thankful for

B) Starting with - We are going to heaven

C) Our world is marked by - so much criticalness and skepticism about everything -

1) Everyone has an AXE to grind and that same mentality can rub off on us

What if we went forth every day - Started with worship - God you are so AMAZING

A) Reminding ourselves - how blessed WE ARE SAVED FROM - Saved to - HEAVEN

B) Imagine how that would change our demeanor - continence -

1) People would ask - Why are you so happy?

C) **Tell you about my Jesus - Why? I am going to heaven - YOU CAN TOO!**

Pray communion