

Praise & Worship Series

Gary W. Pfeiffer MorningStar Church 2011

Reasons & Ways to Praise God

Text: **Psalm 100:1-3** "Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations"

- I. Praise: it is not emotionalism but it does involve emotion. Praise comes from the soul of a man and expresses, gratitude, joy, excitement- it's a relational smile to heaven- saying "thank you"
- II. Let me give you three very general definitions:
 - a. Worship= Who God is
 - b. Praise= What God has done
 - c. Thanksgiving= What God has done for me
 - d. Words mean things.... But words of praise with a grateful attitude....!

III. ILL. There was a preacher that was trying to sell his horse.

A potential buyer came to the church for a test ride.

"Before you start" the preacher said, "you should know that this horse only responds to church talk. Go is 'praise the lord' and stop is 'amen.'"

So the man gets on the horse and says "Praise the lord," and the horse starts to trot. The man again says louder "Praise the lord," and the horse starts to gallop.

Suddenly there is a cliff right in front of the horse and the man yells "Amen!!!" The horse stops just at the edge of the cliff.

The man wipes the sweat from his brow and says, "Praise the Lord." { words mean things}

IV. Four Reasons to Praise God

1. **It's a Command!**
 - a. **Ps. 150:1** "Praise the Lord."
 - b. **Ps. 100** (review text)
2. **He is Worthy of our Praise**
 - a. **Ps. 18:3** " I will call upon the lord who is worthy to be praised so shall I be saved from my enemies"
 - b. **Rev. 5:11,12** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing"
3. **It's part of our Calling / we were created to praise Him**
 - a. **1 Peter 2:5, 9** You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

- b. **I Pt. 2:9** "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you many proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
4. **Praise Defeats the Enemy** / Lucifer (Satan) was originally a musician in heaven.....
- a. Praise is the sound of victory and rejoicing... (Satan hates that)
 - b. **Ps. 8:2** "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger" - NIV
 "With praises from children and from tiny infants, you have built a fortress. It makes your enemies silent, and all who turn against you are left speechless". (Contemporary English Version)
 - c. **Ps 149:5-6** Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.

v. **Five Ways to Praise God**

1. With my voice.

Acts 16:25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.i"

2. With my body.

Ps 63:4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name."

3. With music.

Ps 150:3-5 Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; praise Him with clashing cymbals!

4. With my emotions.

Ps 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!

5. With my life.

1 Cor 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

VI. **Closing-** Praise is something we can choose to do at any time- rejoicing in his goodness

- a. Let's stand and declare praise to the Lord
- b. Now let's sing praises to God

Praise & Worship Series

The Attitude of Praise

Last Week's Review:

Four Reasons to Praise God

- 1. It's a Command!
- 2. He is Worthy of our Praise
- 3. it's part of our Calling / we were created to praise Him
- 4. Praise Defeats the Enemy / Lucifer (Satan) was originally a musician in heaven.....

Five Ways to Praise God

1. With our voice.
2. With our body.
3. With music.
4. With our emotions.
5. With our life.

- I. **Text Heb. 13:15** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name".
- a. **Ep. 5:20** "Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - b. What does that mean? How can we do that?
 - c. We do it by developing an attitude or habit toward praise.
 - d. Praise is not positive thinking- it's positive alignment with God & His purposes
 - e. Remember those verses we studied from last week:
 - f.
 - f.i. **Ps. 100:1-3** "make a joyful shout to the Lord..."
 - f.ii. **Ps 149:6** Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.
 - g.
 - h. We develop an attitude (or habit) through a **choice**. Our praise or our attitude of praise declares our confidence and trust in the living God.
 - i.

SINGING PEOPLE ARE HAPPY PEOPLE

- j. In **Ps. 137 3, 4** the Babylonians requested of the captive Israelites to sing one of the songs of Zion. Their answer was, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign (captive) land?"
 - k. How can Christians express joy and confidence in the Lord if they are living in 'a foreign land' a land of bondage' or captivity to fear, guilt, hatred, lust etc? We need to be 'free' to sing the praises of our God!
 - l. If you are a Christian and living in a land of bondage, make the decision today to start the journey towards freedom and singing (attitude of praise)
- II. Even if you have developed an attitude of praise & thanksgiving- there will come times to test you and give you the opportunity to express your confidence and trust in God in the midst of a trial or difficult situation.
- III. **II Chon. 18** King Jehoshaphat, King of Judah made an ungodly alliance with the King of Israel to go out to battle with Ramoth Gilead. The King of Israel died, but God spared the life of Jehoshaphat.
- a. Jehoshaphat got a Second Chance (you're never guaranteed a second one- but if you get one, make sure you are careful in all your decisions)

- b. **2 Chron. 19:4-7** Jehoshaphat sets his life and his rule in order

So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers. ⁵ Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city, ⁶ and

said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who *is* with you in the judgment. ⁷ Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do *it*, for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."

- c. **2 Chron. 20:1** People of Moab, Ammon & Ammonites came to fight Jehoshaphat
- d. **2 Chron. 20:3** He set himself to seek the Lord
- e. **2 Chron. 20:14,15** Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God's.
- f. **2 Chron. 20:21** "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."^[a]
- g. v. 22 Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Amman, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated

IV. Closing

- a. **Heb. 13:15** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name".
- b. Praise is a choice of how to respond and live before the lord. It is an attitude (habit) that each of us can develop
- c. Is there an area in your life, like Jehoshaphat had, **that** needs to be 'set in order'?
- d. Maybe an area that that you're not able to yet praise the Lord in?
- e. PRAISE IS AN ATTITUDE AND A LIFESTYLE.

Praise & Worship Series

The Song of the Lord

I. Last Week's . Review

- a. **Heb. 13:15** "Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name".
- b. Praise is a choice of how to respond and live before the lord. It is an attitude (habit) that each of us can develop
- c. Is there an area in your life, like Jehoshaphat had, **that** needs to be 'set in order'?
- d. Maybe an area that that you're not able to yet praise the Lord in?
- e. PRAISE IS AN ATTITUDE AND A LIFESTYLE.

II. The Song of the Lord is a Spirit-led spontaneous song that wells up inside a Christian to express thanks, joy, and excitement, expectancy from the heart and lips of a believer to the Lord.

To try to illustrate what I mean; let's look at two of Jesus teachings-

a. **Jn. 4** Jesus and the woman at the well talk about 'living water'

a. V. 13 "But the water I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. "

b. **Jn. 7:37, 38** on the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

III. **Ex. 15:1** Moses... after the defeat of the Egyptians that were pursuing them:

a. Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying:

"I will sing to the LORD,
For He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider
He has thrown into the sea!

b. **v. 20, 21** Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them:

"Sing to the LORD,
For He has triumphed gloriously!
The horse and its rider
He has thrown into the sea!"

IV. **Nu. 21:17** When God led Israel to water in the desert: Then Israel sang this song:

"Spring up, O well!
All of you sing to it-"

V. **1 Samuel 18:6** Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said:

"Saul has slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

VI. **Judges 5:1-3** Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying: ² "When leaders lead in Israel When the people willingly offer themselves,
Bless the LORD!

³ "Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes!
I, *even* I, will sing to the LORD;
I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

VII. General Admonishment to sing praises to God:

- a. **Ps. 92:1** *It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;*
- b. **Ps. 95:15** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

- c. **Col. 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

VIII. Specific Admonishment to individually sing praises to God

- a. **Ps. 144:9** I will sing a new song to You, O God;
On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,
- b. **Ps. 98:1** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
For He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
- c. **Ps. 149:1** Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
And His praise in the assembly of saints

IX. Practical Instruction

- a. Words: **Ps. 92:1** *It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High*
- b. Amazing Grace ...
- c. This is the Day that the Lord has made...
- d. At the end of some choruses, Josh or the musicians' will continue the melody line, sing the Song of the Lord at those times...
- e. God will lead you at times by yourself in song with no know melody line...

Praise & Worship Series

Worship: a Relationship of Trust and Obedience

I. Last Week's Review: Specific Admonishment to individually sing praises to God

- Ps. 144:9** I will sing a new song to You, O God;
On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,
- Ps. 98:1** Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
For He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
- Ps. 149:1** Praise the LORD!

II. **Gen. 22:5** "And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

- A. The Lord had told Abraham to offer his only son as a sacrifice to the Lord- that's where they were going when Abraham made that faith statement- "we will come back to you. "
- B. We use that word worship; much too casually. 'Come to our worship service' or let's worship God today with this song, or with this event or with our offering.
- C. There are many definitions of worship- but the foundational concept beneath all the definitions is LOVE & TRUST.

III. Some Definitions:

- 1. Worship is the ideally normal attitude of a rational creature properly related to the Creator.
- 2. Worship is one's heart expression of love, adoration, and praise to God with an attitude and acknowledgement of His supremacy and Lordship.

3. Worship is extravagant love and extreme obedience

4. Worship is a relationship of trust.

IV. Abraham's Tests: Tests are customized to our spiritual station in life.

E.g. Test in school. 1st graders are not tested on 4th grade material.

A. Family test- to leave the place he grew up in and his relatives behind.

B. Famine test- he failed- he went to Egypt for help

C. Field Test- gave Lot first choice to choose a pastureland

D. Fight test- Defeated the Kings and brought Lot back

E. Fortune test- he said no when offered Sodom's wealth

F. Fatherhood test- failed- when Sarah got impatient and suggested he have a son by Hagar

G. Farewell test- passed- and said goodbye to Hagar and Ishmael

H. NOW THE BIGGEST TEST OF HIS LIFE... AND SO MUCH DEPENDS ON ITS OUTCOME

V. Trails vs. Temptations: Temptations come from desires within us (James 1:12-16). Trails or chastening comes from the Lord who has a special purpose to fulfill.

a. Temptations seem logical- often trails seem very unreasonable.

b. E.g. Why would God give Abraham a son and then ask Abraham to kill him?

Note: Lot was never asked to face the trails Abraham did- he was taken up with the world and never did grow into full maturity. Tests from the Lord are opportunities to trust Him

c. Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable and expect what seem impossible

VII. **1 Corinthians 10:13** "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man: but God is Faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation, will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it."

VI. **Gen 22:1-13** The story of Abraham

I. The Elements of True Worship in Abraham's Life

1. **Revelation:** God begins a relationship with Abraham by revealing Himself to him and speaking to him. True worship is based on the revelation of God.

2. **Preparation:** The revelation Abraham received from God was hard to hear, but he made preparations to obey immediately.

3. **Separation:** At a certain point in the journey he left his servants behind. (people or things in our lives that might interfere in our obedience to the Lord's command)

4. **Dedication:** Abraham had dedicated his son to God and Isaac was God's answer and provision for the promise of a multitude of descendents.

5. **Proclamation:** "The Lord will provide" Jehovah Jireh (God provided the ram in the thicket)

VIII. Closing: And Finally.....

c.A. OBEDIENCE (Follow through)

c.B. **1 Samuel 15:22** "Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,

As in obeying the voice of the LORD?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,

And to heed than the fat of rams.

Praise & Worship Series

Worship Is: Revelation, Emotion & Action

(What Jesus taught on Worship)

I. Last Week's Review : **Worship: a Relationship of Trust and Obedience**

TESTS ARE 'CUSTOM MADE' TO OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY (1 Cor. 10:13) - ABRAHAM'S TESTS:

- A. **Family test-** to leave the place he grew up in and his relatives behind.
- B. **Famine test-** he failed- he went to Egypt for help
- C. **Field Test-** gave Lot first choice to choose a pastureland
- D. **Fight test-** Defeated the Kings and brought Lot back
- E. **Fortune test-** he said no when offered Sodom's wealth
- F. **Fatherhood test-** failed- when Sarah got impatient and suggested he have a son by Hagar
- G. **Farewell test-** passed- and said goodbye to Hagar and Ishmael

II. The Elements of True Worship as expressed in Abraham's' Life

- 1. Revelation:** God begins a relationship with Abraham by revealing Himself to him and speaking to him. True worship is based on the revelation of God.
- 2. Preparation:** The revelation Abraham received from God was hard to hear, but he made preparations to obey immediately.
- 3. Separation:** At a certain point in the journey he left his servants behind. (people or things in our lives that might interfere in our obedience to the Lord's command)
- 4. Dedication:** Abraham had dedicated his son to God and Isaac was God's answer and provision for the promise of a multitude of descendents.
- 5. Proclamation:** " The Lord will provide" Jehovah Jireh (God provided the ram in the thicket)

III. **TEXT Jn. 4:19-23** Jesus and the woman at the well:

- A. Background of Jesus meeting the woman
- B. V. 7 "Give me a drink" He initiates conversation
- C. Note race prejudice on woman's part
- D. V. 14 water will become a fountain of living water...

IV. Jesus teaching on the Text

- a. V. 21 neither in Jerusalem nor Mt. Gerizim... ***Geography not an issue in worship***
- b. V. 22. You make up traditions & customs in worship
- c. Jews know about worship- God through the Patriarchs and the Scriptures
- d. Salvation is of the Jews.... The Scriptures declared the Messiah
- e. V. 23 true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth (revelation)
- f. For the Father is seeking such to worship Him (He is initiator)
- g. V. 24 God is Spirit, those that worship must worship in spirit and truth
 - g.i. (He is invisible , need revelation on how to worship Him)
 - g.ii. Our spirit must touch His spirit

V. **Luke 7:37-39** Jesus & the Woman that washed His feet [Application of what we just learned)

"And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them*

with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

VI. **Luke 7:40-46**

⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

VII. Application of these stories:

- a. V. 37 **It's Revelatory** (She knew it was Jesus the Messiah)
- b. V. 38 **It's Emotional** (weeping.... Sometimes awe, reverence, silence)
- c. V. 38 **It's Action** (she began to wash His feet...)

VIII. Closing:

- a. Degree or intimacy of worship often is directly related to our awareness of the great price He paid for us.
- b. I owed a debt I could not pay... he paid a debt He did not owe.... (song)
- c. V. 44-47 Jesus recounts all the things the woman did to Him
- d. **NOTE: HE IS FULLY AWARE OF OUR RESPONSE TO HIM.... IN REVEALTION, IN EMOTION AND IN ACTION!!**

Praise & Worship Series

David's One Desire in Worship: Psalm 27

I. Last Week's Review:

1. **Jn. 4:19-23** Jesus and the woman at the well: Father seeking such.....
2. **Luke 7:37-39** Jesus & the Woman that washed His feet
3. From the Application of that story we saw worship is:
 - a. **Revelatory** (She knew it was Jesus the Messiah)
 - b. **Emotional** (weeping.... Sometimes awe, reverence, silence)
 - c. **Action** (she began to wash His feet...)

WANT TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT DAVID'S REVELATION OF WORSHIP AND THE TWO THINGS THAT PSALM 27 SAY WERE CONSTANTLY ON HIS MIND.

PRAYER

II. **Psalm 27:1-3** First, let's look at his Attitude and Confidence that he had in the God he worshipped.

A. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked came against me, To eat up my flesh,
My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

³ Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear;
Though war may rise against me, this I *will be* confident.

B. Chuck Swindoll, "Words can never adequately convey the incredible impact of our attitude toward life. The longer I live the more convinced I become that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it." **(Our attitude, our mindset, our worldview....) Our confidence, our confession**

III. **Ps. 27:4-5** One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion;
In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me;
He shall set me high upon a rock.

IV. The Destination of Worship (dwell in the house of the Lord)

1. David was not talking of the Tabernacle (where God dwelt in times preceding Solomon or even the Temple- built during his son's reign).
2. These places were not dwellings to live in; neither were they eternal
3. David was speaking of an ongoing & intimate relationship with God where we live in His very presence.
4. **WORSHIP IS MEANT TO BRING US INTO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD- THAT WE MIGHT GROW IN OUR INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIP TO HIM.**
5. In providing that intimacy, He was providing for us life that would never end; God was giving himself to us. (That is a great definition of-Eternal Life)
6. **John 17:1b-3** "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should^[a] give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.


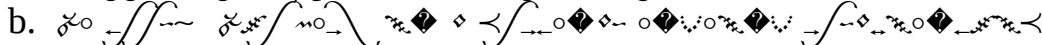
A. God is the singular object of Worship

- a. **Exodus 20:3** "You shall have no other gods before Me."
- b. **I Cor. 10:31** "therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

B. Relationship is the Motivation of Worship- it's a issue of the heart

1. **Gen. 4:6-7** So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.

C. The two things or Desires that was constantly on David's mind: v. 4 "... that I may dwell in the house of The Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple." David's two desires were - to see something and to seek someone

- a. 
- b. 

V. Conclusion

A. these two desires; that we can see His beauty and increasingly seek Him out, are meant to have a profound impact on our life. They are meant to produce a

decreasing satisfaction with the things of the world and insatiable thirst for the presence of God.

B. In his book, *Sahara Unveiled*, William Langewiesche tells the story of an Algerian name Lad lag and a companion whose truck broke down while crossing the desert. They nearly died while waiting to be rescued. As their bodies became dehydrated, they found that they were willing to drink anything in hopes of quenching their terrible thirst. The sun forced them under the truck into the shade where they dug a shallow trench. Day after day they lay there. They had food but they did not eat, fearing it would intensify their thirst. Dehydration, not starvation, kills wanderers in the desert. How did they manage to survive? They drank rusty radiator water, which is, in effect a poison. What makes a man drink water mixed with antifreeze and residue from the engine? The answer is simple. An overwhelming desire to live. What drives a Christian to seek out intimacy of relationship with God- and a desire to learn of His beauty? The answer is just as simple. The unquenchable desire to know God and to see Him in all His glory.

DO YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF THIRST?

Praise & Worship Series

Heavenly Worship- The Lion is a lamb

SERIES REVIEW

Isr. week **Psalm 100:1-3** “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations”

a. Four Reasons to Praise God

1. It's a Command!
2. He is Worthy of our Praise
3. It's part of our Calling / we were created to praise Him
4. Praise Defeats the Enemy / Lucifer (Satan) was originally a musician in heaven.....

b. Five Ways to Praise God

1. With my voice.
2. with my body.
3. With music.
4. With my emotions.
5. With my life.

II. Review Week 2 – The Attitude of Praise

- a. **Heb. 13:15** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name”.
- b. Praise is a choice of how to respond and live before the lord. It is an attitude (habit) that each of us can develop
- c. Is there an area in your life, like Jehoshaphat had, **that** needs to be 'set in order'?
- d. Maybe an area that that you're not able to yet praise the Lord in?
- e. PRAISE IS AN ATTITUDE AND A LIFESTYLE.

III. Review Week 3 The Song of the Lord - Specific Admonishment to individually sing praises to God

- Ps. 144:9** I will sing a new song to You, O God;
 On a harp of ten strings I will sing praises to You,
Ps. 98:1 Oh, sing to the LORD a new song!
 For He has done marvelous things;
 His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.
Ps. 149:1 Praise the LORD!

IV. Review Week 4 Worship: a Relationship of Trust and Obedience (ABRAHAM'S TESTS)

- H. **Family test**- to leave the place he grew up in and his relatives behind.
 - I. **Famine test**- he failed- he went to Egypt for help
 - J. **Field Test**- gave Lot first choice to choose a pastureland
 - K. **Fight test**- Defeated the Kings and brought Lot back
 - L. **Fortune test**- he said no when offered Sodom's wealth
 - M. **Fatherhood test**- failed- when Sarah got impatient and suggested he have a son by Hagar
 - N. **Farewell test**- passed- and said goodbye to Hagar and Ishmael
- The Elements of True Worship as expressed in Abraham's' Life

- 6. Revelation:** God begins a relationship with Abraham by revealing Himself to him and speaking to him. True worship is based on the revelation of God.
- 7. Preparation:** The revelation Abraham received from God was hard to hear, but he made preparations to obey immediately.
- 8. Separation:** At a certain point in the journey he left his servants behind. (people or things in our lives that might interfere in our obedience to the Lord's command)
- 9. Dedication:** Abraham had dedicated his son to God and Isaac was God's answer and provision for the promise of a multitude of descendents.
- 10. Proclamation:** " The Lord will provide" Jehovah Jireh (God provided the ram in the thicket)

V. Review of Week 5 Worship Is: Revelation, Emotion & Action (What Jesus taught on Worship)

- 1. **Luke 7:37-46** Jesus & the Woman that washed His feet @ Simon's House
- 2. Application of this story of how the woman acted:
 - a. V. 37 **It's Revelatory** (She knew He was Jesus the Messiah)
 - b. V. 38 **It's Emotional** (weeping.... Sometimes awe, reverence, silence)
 - c. V. 38 **It's Action** (she began to wash His feet...)

VI. Review of Week 6 David's Two Desires in Worship: Psalm 27

Ps. 27:4-5 One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:
 That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,
 To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.
 For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion;
 In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me;
 He shall set me high upon a rock.

- I. **Rev. 5:1-14** Heavenly Worship- The Lion is the Lamb
 - a. God is seated on the throne, He has the right, authority & power to end the world- He is surrounded by living creatures John has never seen before

- b. He sees someone sitting on the Throne with a sealed scroll in His hand
- c. John understands the enormous significance of the scroll and begins to weep at the terrible calamity that he feels.
- d. 'Don't weep' the Lion of the tribe of Judah is able to open the scroll & its seven seals
- e. John turns to see a lion, but instead sees a lamb- one with death wounds on it.
- f. John can see the blood and the open wounds with which the lamb has been inflicted
- g. (he expected to see a great lion who would rip the seals with his great claws, only to see a small wounded lamb)
- h. When the Lamb opens the seals- events rush forward with power and fury- and the host of heaven fall on their faces as they worship the Lamb.

Paradox- a seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true. How can a lion be a Lamb?

Oxymoron is when seemingly contradictory terms are combined: fresh frozen food; sanitary sewer; deafening silence... In Heaven, the lion is the Lamb makes perfect sense.

II. What's the meaning of the imagery? God's strength is disguised as weakness.

(The secret of God's great strength is in His apparent weakness)

- a. EG. His death on the cross (was even taunted, if son of God come down!)
- b. We keep wanting to have displays of power and have people see that we are on the winning side, but God is content with the appearance of weakness.
- c. His purpose here is profound
- d. What is God always won? What if good always trumpeted and doing the right thing always was followed by reward and recognition?
- e. Everyone would flock to God and follow Him. WHY? (people do things that benefit themselves)
- f. But where would people's hearts be? Would they love God for who He is or because of the power?
- g. What about a God that appears to be weak? What about if people who followed Christ were ridiculed and even persecuted?

III. Not only does God appear to be weak, but He invites us to join Him in that weakness:

- a. **Matt. 11:29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart..."
- b. **Matt. 23:11, 12** The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."
- c. **I Pt. 2:21** For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow His steps."

Note: We worship Him for who He is and not what he does.

IV. Conclusion

- a. The appearance of weakness is not a concern to God
- b. God has a plan
- c. God is in control
- d. THE STRUGGLE IS WORTH IT
- e. **2 Cor. 12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs in persecutions, in distress, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak then I am strong"
(An oxymoron or a deep truth?)
- f. A true worshipper is someone who knows the strength of the Lord but is willing to appear weak to let His strength flow through them.