

Why we Worship, The Reason for Our Song.

A 5-day study on the heart of worship by, Steven Barr.

Introduction.

Regardless of your age or how long you have known Jesus, this study is written for you. We are all worshipers. Who else is worthy of our praise? Who else inhabits the praises of his people? No matter what age or tradition you are, this study is written with you in mind.

Taken from the book of the same title the next few days looks at,

1. Why we worship.
2. The sacrifice of praise.
3. Encouraging one another.
4. Engaging your mind.
5. Worship and God's presence.

We are redeemed, cleansed, born again, saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Believers, who being so, have a heart to worship, overflowing with praise for our creator God, who sent Salvation in Jesus Christ. He has knocked gently on the door of our heart, and graciously written our names in the Lambs book of life. Eternal is our salvation and eternal shall be our song.

Day 1: Why we Worship.

We understand from the book of Revelation that the angels will sing, “Worthy is the lamb,” and that we will join them. This will be an ongoing heavenly event, and to that end, the angels in heaven right now are worshipping God and glorifying his name, but what about us? The following verse states that God is, ‘worthy to receive, glory, honour and power.’ I believe this scripture points towards all of our lives, this is the core meaning of a life of worship.

Revelation 4 v 11 reads. “You are worthy O Lord, to receive, glory and honour and power; for you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”

It is God’s will that you exist!

How amazing is that?

Isaiah 43 v 7 says, “Everyone who is called by my name, whom I have created for my Glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him.” I need to make a distinction here. God has created all of us, he has given life and breath to **all**. It is not only God’s will that you simply exist, it is God’s will that you *live* to glorify and Worship him.

Hebrews 13 v 15 says, “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.” You were created to be an instrument of worship to God. Continually, with your lips, speaking out and singing out Praises to God.

Let’s make a point of thanking God each day for our salvation, thank him in prayer, thank him in worship songs, and thank him by showing his love to others. It is after all, by his kindness that we have found salvation.

Revelation 4 v 11

Isaiah 43 v 7

Hebrews 13 v 15

Romans 2 v 4

Day 2: The Sacrifice of praise.

Given the challenging life circumstances that life can throw at us, we could be forgiven for wanting to shout STOP, God please STOP. Let me off the roundabout. For each time we step out in faith some obstacle or other has come against us. It hardly seems worth trying!

Have you been here? Are you here now?

It is hard going! Don't run, don't step back either. Be still and know God! Then, in the strength and authority given to you in name of Jesus, stand up and Praise God in the middle of the storm.

This will happen again, but as each storm comes, you recognise them for what they are.

Simply put, they are distraction tactics from the enemy camp that try to stop you moving forward into what God has for you.

You are strong when you are weak.

Jesus has given you all you need for life.

The storms may come and go, but your peace and strength come from God. The aftereffects of spending time in God's presence with sung worship, are many and varied. Allowing God to minister his peace and his touch into your life as you sit peacefully at his feet, waiting for his response. The answer to prayer, a healing touch. Physically, emotionally or spiritually. Or maybe a revelation for someone, for yourself, for the Church. Whatever you need, God will bring during these times of honouring and worshipping him. This is the fruit that comes from your lips. You speak it into being with the words of your lips and the faith in your heart.

Praise God in the middle of the storm. This is your sacrifice of praise.

Psalm 46 v 10

Hebrews 13 v 15

Proverbs 18 v 21

2 Peter 1 v 3

2 Corinthians 12 v 9

Day 3: Encouraging one another.

God allows us to build each other up in his name.

Ephesians 5 v 19, "...encouraging each other with Psalms and spiritual songs." E.R.V.

We should be greatly encouraged by what the bible tells us here.

We see friends and colleagues daily in their struggles. God has given us his song to sing in the wilderness and times of struggle. John:7 v 38 "...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." God has given us the ability to draw alongside each other and be a support network.

In the wilderness times of life, we still have a song of salvation to sing. A song, louder and more beautiful than any other song in our lives. The song of salvation lifts us from the miry clay and places our feet upon a rock. Psalm 40 v 2. This is eternal, this is unchanging. We have the privilege of doing this for each other. Walking side by side with brothers and sisters in Christ we can sing this song to them when they are in need. Giving strength to the weary and hope to those who feel hopeless, (don't we all at times), in Jesus name.

The overflow of your heart has a purpose beyond your own blessing. It has the power to rescue and to heal, reaching out to others who desperately need reminding of who they are, and touching those who don't know Jesus with his love for perhaps the first time. Always be ready to encourage and lift others up. One day, it might be you that needs lifting.

Ephesians 5 v 19

1 Thessalonians 5 v 11

Psalm 40 v 2

Day 4: Engaging your mind.

Mark 12: 29-30. “The first of all the commandments is this. Hear O Israel the Lord our God the Lord is one. Love the lord your God with all of your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Getting to know God, (Theology), will enhance your worship of him.

Oh no, I hear you cry, not Theology. “I can’t read those books; they are so complicated.”

The thing is, theology at its most basic form is knowing God. Knowing his, attributes, his character, his heart. Jesus reminds us that the first commandment is, “Love the Lord your God with all your...*mind*...”

When your mind is fixed on something, it is all you have room for in your head. In times of stress, anxiety or worry, fix your mind on the things of God. This practice will carry into your sung worship too.

As you sing a particular line from a song, you will find yourself applying the scriptural truth of it to your life. We must remember here though, our worship, is not about us. It is for God and about God. Yet in his wonderful love and mercy towards us, he draws near to us, when we draw near to him. James 4 v 8. Our sung worship is never about what we can receive. It is all about what we can give to God.

We are to, “set our minds on things above.” In doing so, we are engaging our minds, focusing on who God is, and not on our circumstances. This exalts God above every situation. We have now fixed our eyes on the one who is the writer and perfecter of our faith.

Knowing God is a lifelong journey. Each of us, each day know him a little more. So, don’t stress about theology, instead, worship the God you know today, and seek to learn more about him through reading his word, and spending time with him.

Mark 12 v 29-30 Colossians 3 v 2 James 4 v 8

Day 5: Worship and God's presence.

Have you ever wondered, "What's the big deal anyway?"

Why is God's Presence so important?

From the moment man stepped out of God's presence in the Garden, getting back in, has been a running story throughout the Old and New Testament. The built-in desire to worship and adore is evident in every heart. From life's first cry to our final breath, we have a deep longing.

At the beginning of creation, God and man walked and talked daily. Adam's life was lived in the presence of God. Imagine that for a moment. Don't rush this one. Life, in its entirety, lived in the presence of God. I don't know about you, but this sinner, saved by grace can barely function in the presence of my God and Saviour, let alone, live all of life in his glorious presence. You see, Adam at this time was uncorrupted. Sin had not yet entered the garden or his life. From this point onwards, the Bible tells the story of the return of God's people to his side.

We have the reverence of the Holy God on a Holy Mountain. We are awe struck by the one who parted the red sea, spoke creation into being, and breathes life into us. Our worship journey, our search for God's presence finds its conclusion, in Jesus Christ.

The scarlet thread that runs throughout the Old Testament and Psalms is of course the prophecy of the coming Messiah. He is the reason that we can enter into the presence of God, without a priest, without a blood sacrifice. We are now seen as righteous in the sight of God because of Jesus death on the cross. We are risen and reigning with him, in heavenly places because of his resurrection and have the hope of his soon return. God's presence today, is accessible to all who will confess the name of Jesus Christ as Lord.

So as we live, as we express our gratitude, as we engage with others and as we sing our worship to the only one who has called us by our name and saved us. Let us do so with delight and awe. Until he returns or we go to be with him.

This is why we worship! This is the reason for our song!

Isaiah 57 v 15

Hebrew 4 v 14-16

2 Samuel 6 v 21

James 4 v 8

