

Text: Psalm 66

Meaning: The Psalmist exhorts the people to worship

Big Idea: Scripture and the Spirit exhort us to worship

Objective: I want the hearers to worship

Theme: Reasons

REASON TO PRAISE

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship – Hebrew – to bow low

Worship is a lifestyle of bowing low before the Lord. It is a lifestyle of showing honor to the name of Jesus.

Selah – 3 times in this verse

Worship is stopping to acknowledge God's Presence in my life and His power and provision in the midst of my situation.

WHO DO WE WORSHIP?

GOD – Elohim, three in one
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

We pray TO THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON IN THE SPIRIT
We worship THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON IN THE SPIRIT

Additionally we praise all three! All in the name of Jesus! He has the name above every name!

HOW DO WE WORSHIP?

Shouting – battle cry

Singing - It's not optional for a Christian to sing. You can't gather with the body of Christ and stand there with your arms folded and your mouth shut and say you are fully worshipping. The Bible never says, let those who can sing, sing. Singing is not a spiritual gift. The Bible never says, let those who have beautiful voices sing, as if

natural talent were required to praise God. The Bible just says "Sing!" Over and over, dozens of times, we are commanded to sing: sing to the Lord, sing praises, sing joyfully, sing a new song. Come into God's presence with singing. In fact, the command to sing may be the most frequently repeated command in the Bible. We are told to sing more times than we are told to pray, to witness, to teach, to give money, and even to baptize.

Speaking – Say to God, our daily confession is an act of worship. Negative, bitter, critical language is evidence of a negative, bitter, and critical heart. What's in the well comes up in the bucket!

Sacrifice – Specifically giving and obedience. He says "I will come into your house with burnt offerings." These were generous tangible expressions of worship. He goes on to say that he will perform his vows. Obedience in the face of ridicule or at the possible expense of your reputation or acceptance among others is a real sacrifice, but it is a sacrifice every child of God is called to make.

WHERE DO WE WORSHIP?

He says here he will come in the God's house and worship. God's house was His Temple in the Old Testament – a physical location where God's people gathered to worship. So, every Sunday we gather here to worship our God. Also, Scripture says that those who profess Christ as Lord become the Temple of God's Holy Spirit. So, we actually worship everywhere! Worship is a lifestyle of submission and adoration to Jesus! As Jesus told the woman at the well – worship is not about location, it's about spirit and truth.

We don't COME TO WORSHIP; we BRING OUR WORSHIP!

WHEN DO WE WORSHIP?

Psalm 34:1 - I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

When do we worship – ALL THE TIME!

God is good ALL THE TIME – and ALL THE TIME God is good!

WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

3 Reasons why we WORSHIP

1. The Lord's CHARACTER is glorious

The Psalmist begins with a call to worship. He invites all to shout and sing and to give honor and glory to the name of the Lord. Someone's name means more than their literal title, it speaks of the character or reputation behind that very name. Beloved, the first and foremost reason that we worship our God is because of WHO HE IS! We first worship Him because of his impeccable and incredible character.

Consider what the Scripture says about our God:

TRANSCENDANT – He exists in a form that we cannot fully understand – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and He is eternal, He had no beginning and will have no end

OMNIPOTENT – He spoke everything into existence out of no prior substance – He is all powerful

IMMUTABLE – He is the same yesterday, today, and forever – He is our unchanging God!

HOLY – He is perfect and righteous in a way that is beyond us – His holiness is His infinite otherness

GRACIOUS – His desire is not that we should perish, although we live in rebellion against Him, He sent His own son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sins – and He offers us the free gift of eternal life with Him

FAITHFUL – He says what He means and means what He says. He has never broken a promise and He never will.

And these are just a small handful of the characteristics of our God!

2. The Lord's CONDUCT is miraculous

3. The Lord's CORRECTION is generous

God's conviction is His kindness! Thank the Lord He doesn't leave me the way I am!