

Psalms: Expressive Joy in Worship

Key Scriptures:

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, And He will give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Matt. 15:8-9 ⁸ 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me, ⁹ and they worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Ps. 96:6-8 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. ⁷
Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! ⁸
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

Stage 1: Ps. 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God;

Stage 2: Ps. 33:8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

Psalms 5:7 But I enter your house by the abundance of your faithful love; I bow down toward your holy temple in reverential awe of you.

Stage 3: Ps. 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.

Ps. 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Ps. 63:1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

Stage 4: Ps. 30:11-12 ¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, ¹²
To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Ps. 27:4 ⁴ 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.

Key Point: Delighting in God & finding joy in Him is fuel for praise & worship. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What was your most memorable awe inspiring moment you have experienced?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read through the key scriptures and share any observations or questions with the group.

- How do the passages on the left challenge your understanding of true happiness?
- Jesus warned in **Matthew 15:8-9** that people can honor God with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. What are some ways we might fall into "vain worship," and how can we guard against it?
- Psalm 96:6-8 speaks about ascribing glory and strength to God. How does reflecting on God's splendor and majesty fuel genuine worship in our lives?
- The sermon talked about the importance of stirring up the affections for God. What are practical ways we can cultivate deeper love, awe, and joy in our relationship with Him?
- In Psalm 27:4, David expresses a singular desire to dwell with the Lord. How does this verse challenge the way we think about our relationship with God? What competes for that desire in our lives?
- The sermon mentioned a guide to stirring up the affections for worship in 4 stages: Stage 1. Be still. Stage 2. Awe; Stage 3. Reflect and Respond. Stage 4: God's Response to us. What do you remember about each of these stages and what we are trying to do?
- Since worship is a way of joyfully reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth, what does that look like in **practical, everyday life** beyond Sunday services?

Start doing: One way to practice being joyful and praising God as a response is to personalize a prayer based on one of the psalms. Try praying Psalm 113 in a personal way. Then choose other Psalms.

Prayer Requests. Take some time to pray together. Use the key scriptures as a guide in praying the scriptures back to God.

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