

Worship the Lord
Psalm 63:1-5, Psalm 145:1-10

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Good Morning.

In *John*, Jesus responds to the woman at the well after she asked a question about worship

John 4:22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

John 4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV

- 1. The Lord is seeking people who will worship the Father in spirit and truth.***
- 2. Because God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.***

Please open your Bibles to two places; first to ***Psalm 145***, place a mark there and then turn to ***Psalm 63***, as we take a one week break for our ***1 Corinthians*** study to talk about worship.

Within true Christian denominations that hold to the essentials of the Christian faith; worship is an act showing devotion, thanksgiving, and love for the one true God.

Genuine worship for the Christ follower is about a personal relationship with the Lord and living for Him as a Sacrifice.

Corporate church worship services include many things like, prayer, Bible teaching, communion, and of course singing songs.

This morning I want to look at scripture for some truths about authentic worship and try to answer some questions about some things found within different church services.

Different church worship services can vary greatly, even within similar denominations, because individual churches have their own **DNA** when it comes to Church services.

1. There are Liturgical churches that follow set prayers and readings from their denomination's printed books.

In liturgical services, Christians may feel connected to the traditions of their church through taking part in certain ceremonies, and these ceremonies rarely change over the years.

The Roman Catholic, Church of England, Orthodox Christians, certain Lutheran churches and others, worship in this way.

People who come from a liturgical church often feel very uncomfortable coming into a Non-liturgical worship service, because it is very foreign to them.

Loud music, raising hands, or even someone saying "Amen" to a point of the sermon all seems off putting to these folks.

2. Charismatic churches have informal worship that are usually less conservative than non Charismatic churches

Although charismatic services have some formal features, such as prayers and readings, they are very free-flowing services.

In a Charismatic church, you are likely to witness congregation participation, speaking out in church and the practice of certain sign gifts; with a very high energy experience.

3. Evangelical churches are somewhat informal, with less structure, than a liturgical church, but not as a Charismatic.

Evangelical worship believes the Holy Spirit is in control; but God is a God of order, who brings more structure to the service.

You may still hear loud music and some lifting of hands; with an occasional “Amen” during the service; but again, these services are much more conservative than a Charismatic church service.

The sermon taught at an Evangelical church isn’t necessarily from a book from their denomination; prayers can be in the leader’s own words and unscripted, rather than from a book.

Informal worship focuses on the adoration of God and the music used during informal worship is popular and modern in style, and often involves instruments.

And there are other denominations like Quakers and so on...

I. Make the Lord first place in your life.

Read *Psalm 63:1-3*

David is describing how the Lord means everything to him.

J. Vernon McGee said, *“It is faith and faith alone that can speak like this. God, the Eternal one transcends all human thinking.*

*He is the creator, He is the **Redeemer**, He is my Father. It was Him whom David sought.”*

David starts making the announcement that the Lord God is his God; the Lord over his life.

Matthew Henry said, *“Thou art my God, mine by creation and therefore my rightful owner and **ruler**, mine by covenant and my own consent.”* (Matthew Henry)

“Early will I seek you”; David realized that before he went out into the world; he needed time to seek and worship the Lord.

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me. NKJV

We begin every day thanking, worshipping and seeking Him

Psalm 63:1b My soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. NKJV

Notice the deep longing of David’s heart in these words.

David experienced desert life; he would have known really well, what it was like to be thirsty and in a desert land, without water.

David described a longing and **desire** for God's presence; authentic worship desires to spend intimate time with the Lord.

In the midst of his wilderness experiences, David often found his spirit thirsting for the Lord and his heart yearning for a touch from the Lord.

When we go through our own desert or wilderness experiences in life; may our spirit thirst for the Lord and yearn for a touch from Him, the same way David did.

Re-read *Psalm 63:2*

Most Christians are content with the little bit they know of the Lord; but David wanted to know the Lord intimately.

John Angell James said, "*It is, or should be, the desire of every Christian to see and enjoy more and more of the Glory of God.*

*"A view of the divine glory crucifies our lusts and puts the corruptions of our heart to **death**."* (John Angell James)

Re-read *Psalm 63:3*

C.H. Spurgeon said, "*To dwell with God is better than life at its best; life at ease, in a palace, in health, in honor, in wealth, in pleasure.*"

If we do not know the Lord intimately like David or Spurgeon, than we are missing out on the true life Jesus came to give us.

David knew the Lord was faithful and His loving-kindness was to be desired more than life itself,

In Christ we find the abundant life and joy that never ends, along with a peace, that floods our soul.

David says to the Lord, “*My lips shall praise You*”

Praise with our lips is all about proclaiming the greatness of God and how good He is to His people.

May our lips always offer Jesus the praise due His name!

May we be like David and have the Lord fill our hearts with joy and praise the Lord with our lips and in our lives, to the praise His wonderful name.

If we place the Lord in His rightly first place position of our lives; we will not be able to help but Praise His Holy name.

II. Different worship styles.

Read *Psalms 63:4-5*

One of the words for *praise* is the Hebrew word *hālal*, which means *to boast about; to be praised, or to be worthy of praise.*

Another Hebrew word used for praise is *Yadah* which means “*to use (hold out) the hand especially in reverence or worship.*”

When David used the word *Yadah*, his readers understood it to mean, “*The worship and praise of God with extended hands.*”

There is nothing wrong with using your body to express what's in your heart; in fact the scriptures tell us to do it.

But, like I always say, "*Christians are pendulum people*".

For some, raising hands to worship in a public setting is very uncomfortable; because other people are in the room.

But others may take physical displays of worship too far, drawing attention away from the Lord onto themselves.

Look again at vs. 4 "*I will lift up my hands in Your name.*"

When you truly understand who God is and what He's done for you, you will want to express your heart in worship to Him.

1 Timothy 2:8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting NKJV

Psalm 33:2 Praise the LORD with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. NKJV

According to Strong's concordance, the phrase *Yadah* in *Psalm 33:2* can be translated "***Give thanks***"; while praising the Lord and extending the hand to revere and worship.

David was saying, "*Along with the music I offer the Lord in worship, I will give thanks to Him with extended hands.*"

You don't have to be singing a song that says, "I will lift my hands," in order to be lifting your hands in praising the Lord.

For David, PRAISE was not the singing of an upbeat chorus; but *Yadah* meant extending their hands in the worship of God.

It also makes me wonder what David was experiencing with God to have been that deep in worship with the Lord.

The Lord tells us to lift our hands to Him in worship. Think about a little toddler lifting their hands to their dad, asking to be held.

Think of this within our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

When we lift our hands to God, we are saying, “God, I want you. I need you. I need to be held by you.”

No loving father would reject the outstretched hands of their child. God will not reject your outstretched hands to Him.

But again, we are not doing this to draw attention to us; we are doing this as we enter into authentic worship with the Father.

Pastor Ben Karner offered some suggestions of when we raise our hands in worship

1. Sometimes, we lift up our hands to receive **help**.

Maybe you are in a spiritual battle right now and you need God’s help. You need God’s strength.

Sometimes we get to a point where we just don’t know what we are going to do. So we lift our hands because we need help!

2. Sometimes we lift up our hands in **victory**.

We have all seen football games when the receiver catches it and runs in for the game winning touchdown.

If it was your team, your hands immediately go up and you even high-five the people around you.

Your hands are lifted in victory.

3. Sometimes we lift up our hands in **surrender**.

Remember the old western movies. The sheriff would say, “Put ‘em up” or the bank robber would say, “reach for the stars.”

Lifting your hands can mean victory, but also can mean surrender. In the presence of God, it is both.

We must surrender to find victory and as a child of God most high, the moment we surrender, we find victory.

We lift our hands in worship, we lift our hands to receive help, we lift our hands in victory and surrender.

I know for many of us; it is challenging to think about publicly lifting our hands in worship.

It may feel awkward and we may be self-conscious; but I think it is something we need to do more of in our worship of the Lord.

You may hear certain people say things like, “*Worship was really spirit-filled today.*”

But worship is not about a euphoric feeling, but rather it is experiencing intimacy with God, as we thank Him and proclaim how great He is.

If we have a sincere response to who God is and what He has done; then we are having a true intimate moment with the Creator as we express ourselves in worship of Him.

Turn to *Psalm 145*

Though we are to worship God in spirit and in truth; God has given us arms, and hands, and voices.

If lifting hands were irrelevant during our praise to the Lord, He would have told us to do something else.

So when the Lord moves you in worship, don't consider anyone or anything else around you; raise your hands to worship Him.

III. Greatly to be praised.

Read *Psalm 145:1-4*

This *Psalm* is a praise of David.

C.H. Spurgeon said of this *Psalm*, “*We may take David's psalm as a model, and aim at making our own personal adoration...*

“Let each Christian reader present his own praise unto the Lord, and call it by his own name. What a wealth of varied praise will thus be presented through Christ Jesus!”

Authentic worship is not about people being excited about their favorite worship leader, or a great musician, or great lights and projection, singing their favorite songs.

Authentic worship is all about people truly being moved because Jesus is the God of infinite worth,

Jesus alone is worthy of praising Him for all that we are, all that we do, all that we can ever hope to become.

Worship is more than singing songs!

Worship is living our lives, pouring out our hearts to Jesus individually and corporately, as living sacrifices for His glory.

David in *Psalms 145:1* shows the posture of worship...

David says, “*I will extol You, my God, O King*”; to *extol* means to see as lofty, to lift high, to **exalt**.

David used very specific words to describe God and to describe the way we should respond to Him.

Extol = lift up high above. This is not merely done in the form of worship in music!

God is *extolled*, elevated and lifted high by living for Him in our everyday lives.

We *extol* God, His work, His mission, His story, His glory and showing how important He is to us individually; in the way we use our time, talents and treasure.

David says, “*I will bless You*”; the word *bless* in this verse means to kneel before, to **adore**, or to praise.

When we gather as the local church, we *extol* God in corporate worship.

We sing His name, declaring His fame and goodness; His name is without equal (what a Beautiful name... Yours is the Name above all names).

Our love and passion for the Lord should invade everything we do and should transform our minds and desires.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV

As we worship this ***God in spirit***, we also ***worship Him in truth***.

The God we worship is revealed in the Scriptures.

To ***worship God in truth***, one must worship Him according to what He has outlined in His word.

When a person does things that are not normative within scripture, they are not worshipping ***God in truth***.

The Bible declares the Lord’s nature and His attributes (omniscience, omnipotence, His mercy, His unfailing love, and His amazing grace).

Of course when we talk about worship there are always those who have misconceptions and fears.

We hear things like, “*I don’t want to get emotional in front of others. “I don’t want to get into emotionalism.”*”

Emotional-ism is emotion for the sake of being emotional. Emotional-ism makes an **emotional experience** the desired outcome!

We should not be seeking a desired emotional outcome when we gather and bring our hearts before the Lord.

We should desire the expression of our heart in worship to look like what is recorded in the **Scriptures** regarding worship.

Expressing what is in our hearts for the Lord in a way that is worthy of Him; is what *worshipping in spirit* means.

Worshipping “*in spirit*,” means to engage your whole heart, while exalting the Lord.

Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

David speaks of the greatness of God and then describes the reaction of what coming to know the Lord this way, produces in the believer.

His greatness is unsearchable and it will cause...

Psalm 145:4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts. NKJV

IV. Make known the Lord’s majesty.

Read ***Psalm 145:5-12***

David says, “*I will meditate*”, which is to think intently and at length about something.

David had one thing occupying his attention; the Lord’s majesty and splendor, which translates beauty, comeliness, or Excellency.

The Bible Word website says, “*The Hebrew word used for God’s glorious splendor is kâbôd (kah vewd), which literally translates as weight or weightiness.*”

Kâbôd (kah vewd) is the word used to describe the tangible expression of God and His perfect nature and attributes; the glory and expression of God is so glorious, it is unapproachable.

After the Lord led the people of Israel out of Egypt to Sinai, the *Kâbôd* (kah vewd), or glory of the LORD resided on the mountain as a consuming fire.

God’s *Kâbôd* (kah vewd) /splendor, indicates His presence in the tabernacle and in **sacrificial** service and worship.

When Moses set up the tabernacle, God showed His presence in the midst of his people, for “... the *Kâbôd* (kah vewd) /glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle”.

Kâbôd (kah vewd) /glory is also the expression of God’s presence at the ark of the covenant.

That is why Eli’s grandson got the sad name ‘*IKâbôd* (ick kah vewd)’ (no glory), after the Philistines took the ark of God.

Re read *Psalm 145:7*

We owe our deepest tribute to the Lord God; **why**... *Psalm 145:8 The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

Look at the adjective David used to describe relentless, unfailing, constantly pursuing covenant love of God.

Abounding is a remarkable, out of the ordinary, in degree and magnitude, of love.

Praise is the way we express our amazement and thankfulness to the Lord for His mighty acts.

In this *Psalm* David tells us that Praise is the response to the Lord's glorious splendor of His majesty (His Kingship), along with His awesome deeds and His greatness.

Praise also recognizes His abundant goodness, righteousness, His grace, mercy, and patience.

David by inspiration of the Holy Spirit describes how we should respond to the infinite worth of God.

We should come to church prepared to worship the Lord; tuning our hearts to His heart.

Psalm 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! NKJV

We should train our hearts to think of who He is and what He's done for us...

Our response to who He is and what He's done for us should result in an expression of worship that engages all that is within me to bless His Holy Name!

Worship is not just a little time of singing; it is expressing our praise and love to God in **response** to who He is and what He has done.

I want to encourage you to live as David lived when he said, "***all that is within me, bless His holy name!***"

Knowing the Lord God of scripture both intimately and personally, will cause us to ***worship Him in spirit and in Truth!***