

Psalms for the Soul

Worship

Jim Hoffman

Class work

What is worship?

Psalm 89's Reasons to Worship

- *It is not at all difficult to find reasons to worship.*
- *Everywhere we turn we are confronted either by something he has done or by something he is doing.*
- *If we are paying attention at all we cannot miss these facts; 1) God is worthy of our worship and 2) it is an honor to worship him.*

He is faithful.

- ***Ps 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations. NKJV***
- ***Ps 89:2 For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens." NKJV***

He is faithful.

- ***Ps 89:5 And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints. NKJV***
- ***Ps 89:33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. NKJV***

He is incomparable.

- *Ps 89:6 For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? NKJV*
- *Ps 89:8 O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. NKJV*
- *Ps 89:11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them. NKJV*

He rules.

- ***Ps 89:9 You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. NKJV***
- ***Ps 89:13 You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand. 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. NKJV***

Worship

- *Two primary Hebrew and Greek words are used for the act of worship in the scriptures.*
- *Both mean essentially the same thing; bow down, fall down, or prostrate oneself before God.*
- *The N.T. word goes one step further which we will see in a moment.*

Worship

- *We worship God when we humble ourselves before him for the purpose of honoring him.*
- *We worship God when we willingly subject ourselves to him for the purpose of making him our focus.*
- *We worship God when we fall before him and declare his Lordship over us.*

Worship

NT:4352

proskuneo (pros-koo-neh'-o); from NT:4314 and a probable derivative of NT:2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):

What Does Worship Look Like?

- ***Ps 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. NKJV***
 - ***It looks like honoring his name.***
- ***Ps 66:4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name.“ NKJV***
 - ***It looks like singing praises to Him.***

What Does Worship Look Like?

- ***Ps 95:6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. NKJV***
 - ***It looks like bowing to Him and kneeling before Him.***
- ***Ps 96:9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. NKJV***
 - ***It looks like trembling before Him.***

What Does Worship Look Like?

- ***2 Sam 6:14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. NKJV***
 - *It looks like dancing before Him.*
- ***Ps 47:1 Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! NKJV***
 - *It looks like clapping your hands to Him.*

What Does Worship Look Like?

- ***Gen 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship , and come again to you. NKJV***
 - *It looks like sacrificing to Him.*
- ***Heb 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. NKJV***
 - *It can even look like leaning.*

What Does Worship Look Like?

- *I believe worship can look like almost anything that is decent and honorable. Maybe it can even look like nothing?*
- *Ps 46:10 Be still , and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
NKJV*

What Does Worship Look Like?

- *In the end, worship is far less about position and props (music, instruments, sacrifices, etc..) and very much about the attitude of our hearts.*
- *Music and musical instruments are very helpful to worship, but they are not essential.*
- *The song THE HEART OF WORSHIP by Matt Redman was written after his pastor told him to drop all of the worship aides for a time.*



*When the music fades and all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart*

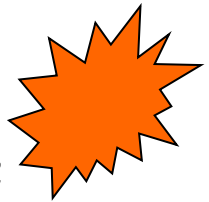
*I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart*

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You
All about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I've made it
When it's all about You
All about You, Jesus*

*King of endless worth, no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours
Every single breath*

What Does Worship Look Like?

- *Much of what our worship looks like is driven by two things;*
 - *Our unique personality*
 - *Our level of our commitment*
- *Each of us is a unique blend of God's creativity; some of us are more vocal, some more demonstrative, some more quiet, and some more reserved.*
- *We cannot ignore our level of commitment to Jesus in the worship equation. It seems to me a false notion to say that we know Him and love Him, but put no effort into worshipping Him.*



Jesus on worship.

- ***John 4:23-24 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. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV***
- ***Our worship reveals the sincerity and intensity of our love for Him, but do not be fooled into drawing conclusions based only upon what you can see and hear.***

Jesus on worship.

- *We worship in spirit and in truth when we agree with His truth that He presented in Jesus.*
- *To worship in the spirit is to worship with our spirit. Notice also that this kind of worship is not optional, but it is the only kind He accepts. (must worship)*
- *Indeed, does not one lead to the other? The more I know of our God the more I want to worship Him.*

Jesus on worship.

- *Luke 19:40 But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." NKJV*
- *Perhaps the term 'block head' fits well on the person who claims to know God, but expends no energy in worship.*
- *He demands a response from us; he will simply not be ignored and he will not be satisfied with just whatever we decide to give him. (ask Cain)*



Giving is Worship

- *2 Sam 24:24 Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." NKJV*
- *David decided that he would not worship 'on the cheap'. He wanted to offer something of value and not something that cost him nothing.*
- *The giving of our tithes and offerings is a form of worship that springs from a heart that says "I am a debtor to His grace".*

Worship is Reasonable

- *If our God is anywhere close to being all that we say he is, then it seems that the only reasonable response to such a God is worship.*
- *How dare we come into his presence and not be affected by Him.*
- *How dare we claim to know him and not find some way to respond to him.*



The Response We Dread

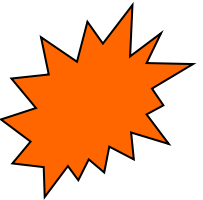
- *Of all of the responses we might want from God when we worship, there is one that we dread.*
 - *Ps 83:1 Do not keep silent , O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! NKJV*
 - *Ps 28:1 To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. NKJV*

The Response We Dread

- *When we worship and God is silent uncertainty surrounds us.*
- *Like the dog that licks it's master's hand we wait for our master's response to our acts of worship.*
- *We can accept almost any sort of reply no matter how subtle, but silence does not sit well with us.*
- *But often it has to because waiting for God to respond to our worship is a matter of faith almost all of the time.*

The Response We Dread

- *In fact, if our worship is given simply to elicit a response from God that we can see, hear, or feel maybe we are really not worshipping.*
- *Maybe we are on some spiritual shopping trip looking for something that we need as opposed to giving God his due.*
- *In the end, we are to worship because we love Him, and not for what we might get from the experience.*
- *What we get is secondary to worship; it's really all about Him!*



Built to worship.

- *We have been built to worship and we intuitively seek one to worship.*
- *In God we have the one who has no peer; not in the heavens, and not on the earth.*
- *Some seek a higher power, some call him by other names, but there is just one God and just one way to him.*



Built to worship.

- *Every people of every age have found some way to worship some one or some thing. (see Acts 17 and Paul on Mars Hill)*
- *How blessed we are to be a people in an age where God has been identified, named, and freely proclaimed.*
- *All we need to do; in fact all that we can do is to respond in worship.*

What do you think?