

The Worship Experience

Praise And Worship

Praise

Psalm 145:1-4 (KJV)

- ¹ I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.
² Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.
³ Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable.
⁴ One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

God is Worthy of our Praise.

The Nature of Our Praise

HERE IS WHERE WE REMEMBER

This Psalm speaks to our hearts about how we are to praise God. The offering of praise is pleasing to the Lord. He inhabits the praise of His people. A heart of praise guarantees closeness to God.

Our praise ought to be:

A. Personal Praise (1-2)—I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

² Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

Notice the four "I wills" in these verses. David is mindful of his obligation to praise God. He had received so much.

Has God not been good to us all? Has He not blessed us beyond measure? Surely each of us has reason to praise God for what He has already done! We must not depend on others to praise the Lord for us. You don't want to be guilty of a lack of praise. You have been blessed beyond measure. You have been lifted out of the miry clay. You have been redeemed. You have been given hope eternal. You have received the very best heaven has to offer. You are obligated to praise Him!

B. Persistent Praise (1b-2)—I will bless thy name for ever and ever. ² Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. David must've been pondering all that he had been given. He couldn't remember a day that he hadn't been blessed. There were days that were almost too hard to bear, but even then God was good.

He couldn't imagine life without praise. Each day brought a new sunrise, a new opportunity, and a renewed hope for the future. Regardless of what the day might bring, he felt obligated to praise the Lord.

- I can never remember a day when God wasn't there. Could we possibly make it without Him? He has never failed to meet my needs. Why would today be any different? All that I have is a result of God's blessing. We could never praise Him enough for our salvation, much less the added benefits!

C. Passionate Praise (3)—Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Can you sense the passion and devotion in what David is saying? Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. David wasn't serving a God who was far off, but One near to him.

- Surely a great God whose greatness is unsearchable is worthy of our praise. If we will only consider who He is, we will be compelled to offer passionate praise. Jesus showed His love with much more than mere words; He showed it as He hung upon the cross.
- If our Lord doesn't stir passion in our souls, I don't know what will! How can those who've received so much not be passionate about Christ?

D. Perpetual Praise (4)—One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. The generations would continue in their praise to God. There has never been a generation that was failed by God. He has blessed men from the beginning of time.

- Although we were not privileged to have the Lord here with us in the flesh, yet His goodness remains. All generations have felt the need to praise the Lord. The words and songs of praise have been handed down through the generations.
- Many of the saints have gone on, but we still remain. Jesus came some 2,000 years ago, and yet we're still praising Him. We must share the joy of praising the Lord with our children. Men will praise Him as long as the earth stands. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so in our day.

After we praise, we **prepare** ourselves **for** worship.

In worship, there is a **releasing**. And **releasing** must take place, in order to make room for **receiving**.

So **first** and foremost, the oil is **released**.

Psalm 23:5 **Psalm 23:5 (PassionNTPsa)** You become my delicious feast even when my enemies dare to fight. You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit; you give me all I can drink of you until my heart overflows.

Secondly, we **release** our burdens at the THRONE OF GRACE

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV) Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Thirdly, we have a brief period of fellowship. The purpose for this brief period is to **release** personal invites or encourage someone in your vicinity to worship with you.

Acts 2:1 (NIV) When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Fourthly we release the Lord's tithe and offerings. This is also the time when we sow special seed offerings for various needs or circumstances.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV) ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Now we are ready to **receive** from Heaven, the powerful preaching of the Lords Gospel.

2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV) Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

Worship

Worship is Human response to the perceived presence of the divine, a presence which transcends normal human activity and is holy

Although the form of worship changed with times and situations, it's heart and center did not change.

Throughout the biblical period listening to God's word, prayer, and sacrifice constituted the essence of worship.

Formerly, God was worshiped in Jerusalem, but now the true Jerusalem would be in a person's spirit.

Ephesians 2:22 (KJV) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The church is called the "habitation of God" in spirit.

True worship requires a people to contact God, the Spirit, in their spirit, as well as a people who knows the truth.

New Testament worship must be in spirit and in truth.

Human beings possess a human spirit, the nature which corresponds to God's nature, which is spirit.

Therefore, people can have fellowship with God and worship God in the same sphere that God exist in.

Descriptions of worship in the congregation vary.

[Lev. 1-7](#) points to the tabernacle worship which involves various offerings that allow for the worshipers to express gratitude, reverence, and confession to the Lord in the setting of dramatic ritual offerings.

1 Chronicles 25:1 (NLT2) David and the army commanders then appointed men from the families of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun to proclaim God's messages to the accompaniment of lyres, harps, and cymbals.

Temple worship maintains these elements and employs music on a rather grand scale.

A survey of biblical elements of worship includes: prayer, praise, thanksgiving, charity/ giving, confession, preaching and teaching, the reading of Scripture, and discipline.

Two central features of Christian worship are:

THE ORDINANCES OF BAPTISM

Matthew 28:19 (NLT2) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41 (KJV) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

1 Corinthians 11:26 (KJV) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.