



Sermon Series: Strengthen Me

Sermon Title: How To Reach God

Date: 5/14/2023

If you want to get connected with God:

Big Idea: Refuse to be passive, worship God Almighty!

To get there, let's look at a few questions:

Who do we worship?

The one and only living God: God the Father our creator, God the Son our savior, God the Holy Spirit our helper and sustainer.

What is worship?

Romans 12:1

Since God is compassionate and Jesus (filled with love) paid the penalty for your sin, give your life to God. You are a sacrifice, not something dead on an altar, but active and alive; YOU are the best element of worship.

Worship, at its core, is a joyful sacrifice of something you have – that you, in turn, offer to God. Worship is an all-consuming way to live before God.

Worship begins with you coming to faith in Jesus Christ. The only way for your life to be holy and acceptable begins with knowing you must be saved by someone greater than yourself. You believe Jesus is your savior. You present your WHOLE life to him (your thoughts, emotions, children, your spouse, your career, your income) and then say (not take_them) but take me!

Why do we worship?

1. Worship is the greatest expectation (commandment) of God:

Mark 12:30

Be in God's presence and think through how amazing He truly is. To worship is to be in awe of Him. To adore Him.

2. Worshiping God brings blessing

Psalms 91:14

When you worship God, you will be lifted before him, you will be shielded, and at the end of days – You will be saved because you are His you know one another. You know Him!

3. Worship is the path to peace in your life now.

Philippians 4:4-7

“Rejoice” – that’s another worship word “be happy/worship” in the Lord all the time. Worship and then watch for the way life changes/ how you change: you become known as being gentle, you know how close God is to you, and your anxiousness can be replaced with His peace.

LIFE CHANGE can start with your worship of God through your salvation in Jesus. Salvation is Jesus is your first ACT of worship. Which leads to

How do we worship?

John 4:23-24

If you are a true worshiper, you come with your whole life. Worship is not meant to be an outward show, an identifier of if you have faith or not. Your faith in Jesus Christ will drive you to worship! And we participated in some of those worship-filled actions in our “Worship” Service:

1. **Gathering** - where we can inspire one another and know Jesus is present; see. Psalm 122:1; Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20
2. **Prayer** – where you spend time talking to God directly: Daniel 6:10; Colossians 4:2
3. **Singing** - through which we lift our outward voices in praise of God – putting words to the way we feel and think about God: Psalm 71:23; Acts 16:25
4. **Giving** – demonstrates our tangible trust in an invisible God, our obedience to his Rulership: Hebrews 13:16; Acts 20:35
5. **Learning** - which allows all of us to grow into mature believers, ready to share the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, encourage others in life, and bring new people into the Kingdom of Christ: Hebrews 5:12-14

When we come together to Worship God through Song, prayer, giving, and hearing from his word, we set aside T-I-M-E to express our L-O-V-E to our Heavenly Father

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Explain how worship is more than singing praises to God.**
- **What are some ways people can worship when they are not in church?**
- **How does obedience or disobedience to God affect your worship?**
- **Does worship come to you naturally, or do you have to work at it? Explain**
- **How important is worship in your relationship with God?**