

REASONS



EVERYONE HAS THEM
WHAT ARE THEY?



LET THE LION OUT | REASONS

Everyone has them... What are they?

2 Chronicles 20:12-30 NLT

INTRODUCTION Band plays softly underneath... Welcome | Engage Audience | Reasons Series
People do things for their REASONS not ours... So find their REASONS!

I want to share an Old Testament story with you today...

2 Chronicles 20:15-23 NLT

15 He said, "Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: **Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's.**

16 Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. **17 But you will not even need to fight.** Take your positions; then **stand still & watch** the Lord's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah & Jerusalem.

Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!"

18 Then King Jehoshaphat bowed low with his face to the ground. And all the people of Judah & Jerusalem did the same, worshiping the Lord. **19** Then the Levites from the clans of Kohath & Korah stood to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud shout.

20 Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, "Listen to me, all you people of Judah & Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God & you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, & you will succeed." **21** After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord & praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: **"Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!"**

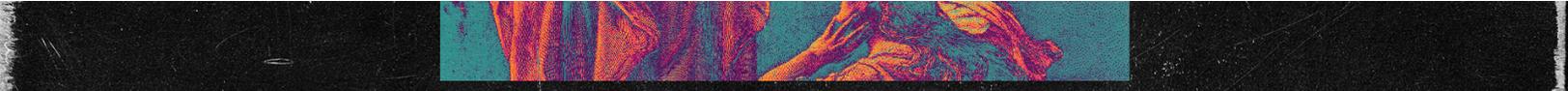
22 At the very moment they began to sing & give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves. **23** The armies of Moab & Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir & killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other.

How many of you know that where faith exists, fear cannot stay?

Today we're going to talk about the spiritual practice of worship. Worship is not something that we do, it's something that we're created for. It's our reason! Whether you believe it or not, we're all worshipping something. The question is where's our focus? Where's our affection?

Where's our love & sense of awe going?

Instead of doing a broad definition about worship, I want to dive deeper & talk about this idea that as the people of God, we sing songs, attach music to it & we do it all for the Glory of God. There's no doubt that every aspect of our life should bring Glory to God but I really want to lean into the practice of worship. The **REASON** we worship! The **REASON** we sing songs with with melodies & harmonies.



WORSHIP IS THE ACT OF GLORIFYING GOD IN HIS PRESENCE W/ OUR VOICES & HEARTS

Worship is not a new thing. It's not a Modern thing. It's not Hymns or CCM. It's not a thing we do in church so that you can have an emotional response or fix to where you can say things like... Wow, that felt good. Worship has been a practice of the church since the beginning. We are a singing faith. When you go back to the beginning you'll see that men & women have been singing to give God glory. It's part of our heritage.

Colossians 3:16-17 NLT

16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach & counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. **Sing psalms & hymns & spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.** **17** And **whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.**

Whatever you do... (Job, Role, Giftings, Responsibilities) **do everything** in the name of Jesus.

Paul gives us specific reasons for singing praise & worship but then he also makes it clear that whatever I do should also be an act of worship. We're to sing. We can open up our mouth to praise God with psalms. We can lift up Jesus with melodies & harmonies. We are called to worship!

It's remarkable that when you start studying church history. We can see that the people of God from the very beginning called the church to gather together why? To worship. We can go all the way back to when the Hebrew people were enslaved under Egypt for 400 years & one day God calls this man who had a stuttering problem. His name was Moses. Moses I'm going to use you to communicate with Pharaoh. Moses comes to Pharaoh literally speaking the words that God gave him & what was Pharaoh's response? **(Pharaoh / Moses Image)**

Exodus 7:16 NLT *"Let my people go, so they can worship me in the wilderness."*

God wants you to go so that you can do something... The very first idea that we have of a church is in the Old Testament. They had this thing called a tabernacle. The Hebrew people went into the wilderness on their way to the promised land & they wandered for 40 years. Each camp had specific directions from God. Every time they set up camp, at the center of their camp had to be a tabernacle. Inside of this tabernacle was known as the holy of holies & the ark of the covenant. That was where God's presence dwelt & the beautiful picture of the tabernacle is that it was the first portable church! **(Video of the Tabernacle no Sound)**

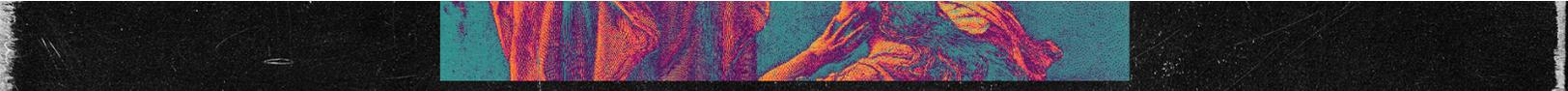
All of the tribes would be positioned around the tabernacle. It was a picture of a group of people stating that God would be the center.

The whole **REASON** that God wanted to get the people out of Egypt was so that they could get into a place that they would worship freely.

GOD ALWAYS BRINGS YOU OUT, IN ORDER TO BRING YOU IN

God brings them OUT of slavery to bring them INTO His presence. This isn't something that was done many years ago. It's what God does today! It's what He does in my life & yours.

God brought you out of anxiety to bring you into His peace. God brought you out of sickness to bring you into His healing. God brought you out of guilt & shame & into grace & freedom. God brought you out of depression & into joy. God brought you out of being lost & alone & into His purpose & family.



He brings you out in order to bring you in... This is the gospel of Jesus. It's the **REASON** to worship. To turn from sin so that you can be brought into His presence. Where you can not only just worship Him but have a real relationship with Him.

If we're going to be the "church" our primary **REASON** is to worship. If we don't do that, then who are we? We're not actually who we say we are. It's not just about telling people about our faith. But it's putting it into practice. What do you do when you don't know what to do?

Maybe you find yourself saying it's been a week. Or it's been a month... What do you do? What are the **REASONS**? What are our habits? What is our behavior pattern like? We don't want bad habits, right? We want faith habits that show up even when we don't know what to do...

What you do daily determines who you become permanently...

Knowing how to do things is always good...

But before you can know how you've got to know the "Why?"

IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE REASON YOU DO SOMETHING, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW GOOD YOU DO IT, EVENTUALLY YOU WILL GIVE UP

If you don't know why you're singing eventually you will stop singing.

OUR REASON IS...

We delight in God. When I delight in God, He delights in me. Sometimes people can get confused with this... People think that it needs to sound a certain way or be a certain style. It could be Gaither's Homecoming, Volume 26 or it could be Keith Green, Vineyard, Elevation or Mav City.

God loves the sound... Just like how I love the sound of my families voices, God loves your sound!

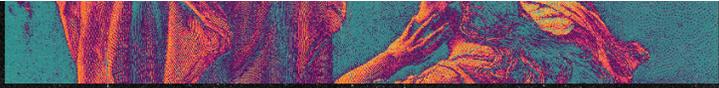
It's not the style of the sound but the intention of the heart.

All of us have been given a unique sound & God wants nothing more than for us to use our lives & our gifts to honor Him. Yet many of us think that our sound isn't very good. Or we think our sound is too much. Instead of giving God glory, we give ourselves or someone else's sound glory.

God loves to hear you sing. You can be off pitch, lack rhythm, sharp, flat... or two verses behind. God loves your sound & your style. When we worship we draw near to God & he will draw near to us. Jesus made it possible for us to not have to go to a temple or the holy of holies but that we can draw near right where we are at.

ILLUSTRATION: Motion Sensor Doors (No matter how difficult things can be, I'll keep drawing near.) Give God praise today because of the **REASON**. When we sing we magnify God. We magnify God & his love, goodness, faithfulness, character. Worship expands image of who God is in your heart, mind & soul. When I focus my heart & mind on God, it's there that He deeply changes my life.

Let me give you a **REASON**... Cause you may be wondering, "Why do we sing?" I just want to hear the word of God being preached. I just want to get to the good stuff. This is a spiritual habit.



WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF WAR

(Visiting ZOO & Love for Lions like Lion King) I have the voice of a lion! Spiritual symbolism with Lions, their strength, courage, power, royalty, protection, authority, majesty & wisdom. So what does a Lion have to go with today's message? (**Show Picture of Lion as I talk about it...**)

ILLUSTRATION: LION ROARING (Video Sound On)

Their roar is for more than just showing off. Both male & female lions roar to communicate their location, show their strength & intimidate others. This warning can be as loud as 114 decibels & can be heard up to five miles away.

I hope you know that there is an assignment against your life. As a follower of Jesus we have an enemy. One who would want nothing more than for you to be silent. To be timid, fearful instead of fearless. To be insecure, knowing that God is great but yet doubting that he can really use you when it seems to me other people are more qualified.

When we know the reason behind our worship... We don't have to survive day by day but we can actually Thrive day by day. You can wage war through worship.

If we keep believing the lies, we'll never be all that God has called us to be... You'll never be able to truly love God through your worship if you can't first love yourself with the love that he gives. When the lies come, you can start to worship.

When you worship, I want you to get this. You're not adding to Jesus... You're not giving him more power or strength. You're not filling up his cool meter. He is already God all by himself. Our worship doesn't remind Him of who He is. He's not having an identity crisis. He is God, He is truth, life, love, He is a light in the darkness...

He knows everything from beginning to end... He invites us into His story.

John 8:45 NLT *So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me!*

ILLUSTRATION: Connect about my own insecurities...

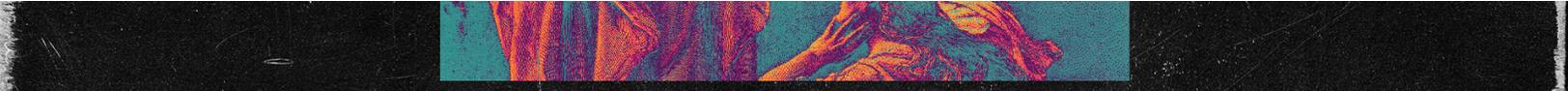
He's speaking to so many of us but we naturally don't believe Him... This is where we have to wage war. Where we have to remember the **REASON** why we worship.

The word of God is our weapon... It stays that it's sharper than any double edged sword... But how do we use it... Does it just sit on a shelf or on a menu of our phone untouched until we come hear a talk about it? If the word of God is a sword then our worship is how we swing it.

Then there are those who would say... there's too many songs. There's too much music. I'm not a singer & I just come for the word of God. Sometimes I'll even arrive late just so I can miss most of it... Which is heartbreaking... Cause we obviously don't know the **REASON**...

We don't sing to remind ourselves of all that we're not. We lift up our voices to remind ourselves of all that God is. We're waging war and swinging the sword. We're telling ourselves who God is. He doesn't need it! We need, You need it, I need it.

I sing cause I have no idea what God is doing but I know He's moving on earth & in Heaven. I sing because I've got issues & I need to remind myself of who God is. I believe that once this **REASON**



begins to sink in & take root that we would be ready to wage war. That our worship would be more than just a song but it would be a battle ground.

CLOSING | NEXT STEPS | Worship Team Come Back (Gratitude Song)

2 Chronicles 20 Story of Jehoshaphat who succeeded his father Asa at the age of 35 & he ruled for 25 years. He came into power and restored the temple, removed all the idols & is passionate about God. Then one day an enemy comes... with three armies with a plan to attack.

2 Chronicles 20:12 NLT

12 O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help."

What do you do when you don't know what to do? Our eyes are on you!!! When we fix our eyes on the Lord, He will come through. The spirit of the Lord speaks to him... And as they walk into battle, they are not fighting with spears but they are fighting with their worship as an act of war!

I don't understand, we don't fully know the power & the weight of our praise. It may not look like much but when the spirit of the Lord is there... Nothing is impossible! Do you have a voice? Do you have a song to sing? Do you have something to declare?

What's the reason behind our worship? When we sing & lift our praise to God, we are lowering the voice of the enemy. We're fighting with our worship. What song we're they singing... (Songs, etc...)

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

Take a moment & think about the goodness of God. Worship Him not just for what He has done but what He is going to do.

HIS LOVE ENDURES

It's not about me confessing my love to God but God's love for me. It's not just about positive affirmations. It's about faith declarations.

2 Chronicles 20:29-30 NLT

29 When all the surrounding kingdoms heard that the Lord himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them. 30 So Jehoshaphat's kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

PRAISE MAKES A WAY FOR PEACE

If you're struggling right now... This is why we sing. This is the reason why we worship. It's why we declare our gratitude.

Closing Song with band...