

Back to the 90's - Psalm 95

Good morning Newsong church!!! It is so good to be here with you this morning.

Welcome to our first time guests, if you are watching online or here for the first time today, on behalf of the pastoral staff I want to say welcome!

We believe that you're not here by accident or by chance but that God has a word for you today.

As many of you may know We are In a series called "Back to the 90's". Where we are taking a deep dive look at a the book of Psalms and going through the 90s! The first week we looked at chapter 91 and last week looked at 94 and today we are focusing in psalm 95.

Now, some of you may know. I was in fact born in the 90's believe it or not. I was born in the great year 1998. I wish I could tell you more about the 90's but I really don't know much I'm sorry. I'm pretty sure my first memories are like from the year 2000 at the very least.

Usually you can figure out where someone is from just based on how they talk but sometimes you can even figure out how old they are.

Something I find amazing, is language. Some people know multiple languages, 3 or 4 or 2 and maybe just one? Like me.

What's even crazy to me is the use of slang words and how you can think a word could mean one thing and just be entirely something else. Like Lit could mean two entirely different words to two different people.

So I thought it would be fun to start off our service today with some 90's slang, in spirit of going back to the 90's.

So starting off from the 90s we have

- "As if"
- Da Bomb
- No duh
- Not! or Psych
- All that!
- Talk to the hand

I don't really remember the 90s but I remember some of these just from movies or shows

I thought it would be funny to look at some Gen Z/ Gen Alpha slang just to see if you guys are keeping up with the times.

- Its giving - The feeling or vibe someone or something is giving off
- No Cap - no lie or im not lying
- Rizz - charisma
- Bop -
- Skibidi Ohio Rizz

Yes at this point we will need two dictionaries to know what the next generation is saying so please pray for the youth leaders

But the point I want to make from this is that no matter what generation you from you can go back to the 90s in the psalms and God is speaking , you can pick up this eternal life giving book and God will speak his truths to you today . What's even more amazing is that this book, is not just a simple book but it speaks directly to our situations to this very day , no matter the generation , no matter the words you know or may not know,

God's word transcends it all and he will speak to you as you continue to search for his voice .

So Today we are going to take a look at Psalm 95 together and this Psalm is all about giving God praise and I love how the author is giving God praises and Honor. Lets read it together

PSALMS 95

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the **Rock of our salvation.**
2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him.
3 For the **LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.** 4 He holds in his hands the **depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains.** 5 **The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too.** 6 Come, **let us worship and bow down.** Let us kneel before the **LORD our maker,** 7 **for he is our God.** **We are the people he watches over,** **the flock under his care.** If only you would listen to his voice today! 8The LORD says, "Don't harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness.9 For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw everything I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' 11 So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'"

Pray

My prayer all week has been that God would speak to his people, the church and his words would strengthen you today. This Psalm is about worship and more specifically a call to worship and ends with a prophetic word of warning from God. Before we dive in we need to set a baseline of our understanding of what worship is.

Google would say this

“the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a Deity”

Which sounds kinda nice and kinda right. The only thing I don't like about that definition is that it says ***“the feeling*** of Reverence for a God.” Worship is not just a feeling we get when we come in here on Sunday and we have our iced Coffee and we sit in our non assigned seat in the 7th row, because you know 7 is God's number so I'm closer to him there. And they play my favorite song so now I can worship. I didn't like the past two songs but this one, this is my Jam.

Worship is not about **Us** church. We get to play a part in worship but it's not about you.

So how do we as Christians define worship? I found a Christian article that defines worship as

Worship is when we give our deepest affections and highest praise to something. True worship of God is when we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. It's when we prize God above everything else and put Him first in our hearts.

Look at what it says in **Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NLT**

4 “Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.[a] **5** And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

In short, ***Worship is the proper response to an Almighty Creator.***

For the note takers, write that down for your notes. Worship is the proper response to an Almighty Creator, that's our baseline,

Psalms 95 has no clear writer, most believe David wrote it since Psalm 95 was quoted and mentioned in the book of Hebrews in chapter 4, Hebrews 4 mentions God using David and speaking through him. Some scholars believe this Psalm was used as a call

of worship at the beginning of traditional festivals, which you can see as we look back at Psalm 95 1-2 NLT

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving.

Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

The writer starts the Psalm off by inviting us to sing to the Lord. He says let us shout Joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Some translations say make a joyful noise. This phrase is still a little too tame for what the original Hebrew was saying. A more accurate description is to shout and Singing aloud, A noisy shout similar to the entrance of a Human king.

The only thing we might have that compares to this kind of shouting would maybe be what people do when they see their favorite artist or if you've been to a professional football game or baseball game.

Something that came to my mind that perfectly fits this type of shouting and singing is found in The New Testament when Jesus came into Jerusalem. Although we weren't there to hear it, I can picture it in my mind

Luke 19:35-40 (NLT)

35 So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on.

36 As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. 37 When he reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

38

“Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”[a]

39 But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

40 He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

I can imagine the the crowds throwing down the coats as a sign of honor and hearing them all shouting and Praising God saying “Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord”

This is an act of worship. (This is the meaning in Hebrew when it describes worship - this is the worship we are called to do) A proper response to an almighty creator.

This leads to my next point:

1. Worship leads us to his presence

Worship leads us to God's presence! This is one of the reasons why worship is so important. The presence of God is like nothing else in this world.

Im sure if you've called yourself a christian for some time you remember the first time you really felt God's love and compassion in his presence
or you remember specific times where God touched your heart, when he spoke to you or when he gave you peace in your situation or in your storm.

Worship has the ability to shift your attention, you can go from focusing on your own circumstances, your own fears and anxieties , and pain and through prayer,

through reading the word, through worship you get to put all of your attention back on the creator of the universe.

The writer in Psalm 95 reminds the readers of this very thing. verses 1 and 2 start with a call to worship, and in the next few verses we will see why he's worthy of the worship and how worship puts God above our situation.

Psalm 95:3-5 NLT

3 For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. 4 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the mightiest mountains. 5 The sea belongs to him, for he made it. His hands formed the dry land, too.

What a simple yet amazing reminder, The lord is great and a great king above all gods.

He deserves our praise because he is the creator of it all, he created all the hills and valleys and the highest mountain top. He holds it all in his hands.

Yet he knows you by name and he loves you church.

There's nothing like seeing creation to be reminded of God's glory and Goodness.

I don't know about you but when I see something like a sunset or the star constellations, I'm always telling JoMaris, babe look at the sky! If we are driving, I'll say did you see the sky right now? Did you see the sunset? Or if we were walking outside at night you can easily catch me looking up at the stars pointing out the big dipper and little dipper and Orion's belt. In that moment, the beauty of his creation has my full attention and that's all I can see!

That's what our relationship with God is like when we worship him. We realize how big God is and how he has it all under control and he cares so much for us. Don't you forget but everything must bow to the name of Jesus!! The winds and waves must obey his every word, do not forget the power in the name of Jesus church!! If we don't worship, the rocks will cry out in worship! No one can do it like our God.

Creation in of itself points to a creator, and we get to know this creator personally.

When we worship, we enter into the presence of God. His beauty has our full attention. Worship leads us to his presence and the next thing for your notes is

2. God's presence changes us

In the next few verses in Psalm 95 we see a second call to worship for the readers.

Psalm 95:6-7

6 Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker, 7 for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care.

This is now a second call to worship. Why is this call to worship different than the last? If you notice the language being used changes from Let us sing to the Lord, he who is the creator to now "He is OUR maker, for he is OUR God. The relationship is more personal now and now our Identity is forever changed.

God is not just a father, a creator, but our father, our creator, He's our protector. His presence changes us because it gives us a revelation that God is *our* God and we are the flock under his care.

God watches over us, he cares for you church. The flock is under his care! This church is under God's care.

This isn't the first and only time the bible uses this type of symbolism. Remember in the book of John?

John 10: 11-15 NLT

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. 12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. 13 The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, 15 just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

Christ sacrificed his own life for you and I, and that love is what changes you. Imagine the One who spoke everything into existence, saying I sacrifice my life for you. I leave the 99 for you. His presence changes us because in his presence, we find his love.

Jesus is a good shepherd and he knows you, when all else fails and everyone else leaves Jesus will never leave you.

God will meet you where you are today. When we live a lifestyle of Worship, we will start to know God more and more, as you study his word or you begin to make time for prayer, and you're in his presence, God will take those broken pieces in your life and make you brand new.

Psalm 95:7-11 NLT

7 For he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If

only you would listen to his voice today! 8 The LORD says, "Don't harden your

hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness. 9 For

there your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw

everything I did. 10 For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.'

11 So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'"

When I first read this psalm I was kinda confused. Like why does this start with such heartfelt worship and praising God to “And they will never enter my place of rest”. Remember worship isn't a feeling of yes I want to worship because everything is going right, Its our proper response to an Almighty creator.

This Psalm goes from worship to a warning. To break this down, I found this commentary by a former professor of religion by name **W. H. Bellinger, Jr.** , I know with that name he was born to be a professor. Listen to what he says about these last few verses.

The sequence of Psalm 95 is important for readers. The psalm begins with the praise of God and moves to a prophetic warning spoken by God. The warning hopes that the community will trust in God, that is, will live out the praise articulated in verses 1-7. God's gracious acts of creation and of calling out the community lead to the challenge for a response of praise and of lived faith.

Psalm 95 sings praise to God as sovereign and calls for faithfulness in response, in contrast to their ancestors' response in the wilderness. So the psalm brings the past to bear on the present liturgical context. Those who do not heed the warning of history may have the misfortune of repeating it.

We remember the past, not to repeat it, but to learn from it. God's presence changes us because it challenges us to live out our faith. So Pray when he puts it on hearts to pray

for someone one or to bless that person at the store or go to that new job he's calling you too or further into ministry.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

How do you know which path to take?

Through prayer and worship

Worship leads us into his presence , God's presence changes us and lastly for your notes

3. In his Presence we find true rest

This might sound strange when you read verse 10 and 11

10 For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, 'They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.' 11 So in my anger I took an oath: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'"

The reality is They turned away from God, and so they were not able to have rest. But the opposite is true. when you turn to God, you find true rest.

We have the opportunity to enter into God's rest everyday. Where do you find your rest?

There is so many things trying to get our attention in this world, the news, the politics,

your job, life circumstances that always seem to keep popping back up. It's one thing

after another. When you get home or when your day is winding down all you can think is man I just need to rest, I need a break.

Then what do we do? We pull out our phone and start scrolling, you go from instagram to youtube back to instagram then to facebook to Tiktok and then back to instagram. Or you can turn on your favorite show on netflix and then just binge three episodes back to back and how do you feel all that? **RESTLESS**

I reminded of what Jesus said about this

Matthew 11:28-30 NLT

28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

We only find perfect rest for our souls in Jesus! He is offering you that rest today.

Entering his rest looks like giving him what you cannot hold, what you can't bear, it is submitting your thoughts and your feelings to God. As you give him all the thoughts and fears and anxiety, he sees you right there immediately.

Story of Worshiping in the car

If the worship team would come back up as we begin to close.

We always end our service with this question, what is the holy spirit saying to you today?

God wants you enter into his presence today church! Not just when you feel like it, not just when things are going Great in your life but everyday. Because in his presence you are transformed, in his presence, you find true rest.

We can boldly go before the lord, and he will renew our strength! You can put your full trust in him today!! No matter whats going on, no matter the fear or anxiety or depression, he is bigger church!!

We need to continually put our eyes back on Christ, the world doesn't want you to enter into his presence; the enemy wants your attention. But when we enter into the presence of Jesus the enemy has the flee, darkness cannot stay there, Chains must be broken. Jesus overcomes it all.

Church let's stand together before the lord today.