

In every season of life—whether in the waiting, the searching, the healing, or the hurting—God’s presence is unwavering. Even when we cannot see or feel Him, He is right there, guiding, comforting, and pursuing us with relentless love. There is a deep assurance that comes from knowing we are never alone; God’s faithfulness is the foundation upon which we stand. He lifts us from despair, places our feet on solid ground, and changes our very identity, calling us His own. This transformation is not just a one-time event but a continual process of surrender, gratitude, and worship.

The name of Jesus stands above every other name—beautiful, wonderful, and powerful. In His name, we find hope, freedom, and victory over every circumstance. No rival or equal can compare to Him; His reign is eternal, and His glory fills every space. When we declare His worthiness, we join with all creation and the angels in heaven, proclaiming His holiness and majesty. Our worship is not just a song but a response to the overwhelming goodness and faithfulness of God that chases after us all our days.

Trusting in God means laying down our burdens, surrendering our plans, and believing that He will never fail. As we turn our eyes upon Jesus, the distractions and worries of this world fade in the light of His glory and grace. Every breath becomes an opportunity to testify to His goodness, to remember His faithfulness, and to exalt His holy name. He is worthy of it all—our praise, our trust, our lives. In every moment, let us bring our offering of worship, knowing that He alone is holy, now and forever.

Key Takeaways

1. God’s Presence in Every Season

No matter where we find ourselves—whether in the shadows of the alley, the fire, or the flood—God is always present. Even in moments of doubt or brokenness, He is working, often unseen, as a blessing buried in the broken pieces of our lives. This truth invites us to look for God’s hand in every circumstance, trusting that He is near even when we cannot perceive Him. [20:48]

2. The Transforming Power of Surrender

True freedom and a new identity come when we surrender our lives to God. He lifts us from despair, changes our name, and places us on solid ground, not because of our strength but because of His grace. Surrender is not weakness; it is the doorway to experiencing God’s power and faithfulness in ways we could never achieve on our own. [06:03]

3. The Supremacy and Beauty of Jesus’ Name

The name of Jesus is not just a title—it is the embodiment of all hope, power, and salvation. Declaring His name brings light into darkness, breaks chains, and reminds us that nothing can stand against Him. In worship, we align ourselves with heaven, proclaiming that Jesus has no rival and no equal, and His name is worthy above all. [16:11]

4. God’s Relentless Goodness and Faithfulness

God’s goodness is not passive; it actively pursues us, even when we stray or feel unworthy. His faithfulness is evident in every breath we take and every moment we live. Remembering and declaring His goodness anchors our hearts in gratitude and trust, especially in seasons of uncertainty. [41:57]

5. Worship as a Response to God's Holiness

Worship is more than singing; it is a life poured out in awe of God's holiness and majesty. As we join with all creation and the angels, we are reminded that God alone is worthy of all praise, honor, and devotion. This perspective shifts our focus from ourselves to the eternal, inviting us to live each day in reverence and surrender.

Psalm 40:1-3 (ESV) — > I waited patiently for the Lord;

> he inclined to me and heard my cry.

> He drew me up from the pit of destruction,

> out of the miry bog,

> and set my feet upon a rock,

> making my steps secure.

> He put a new song in my mouth,

> a song of praise to our God.

> Many will see and fear,

> and put their trust in the Lord.

2. Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)

> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

3. Romans 12:1 (ESV)

> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Observation Questions

In Psalm 40:1-3, what actions does God take on behalf of the person who waits for Him?

According to Philippians 2:9-11, what is unique about the name of Jesus and how do all creation respond to it?

The sermon mentions that God is present “in the shadows of the alley, the fire, or the flood.”

What are some of the different seasons or situations described where God's presence is found? ([20:48])

What does the sermon say happens to our identity when we surrender to God? ([06:03])

Interpretation Questions

Why might the psalmist describe God's rescue as setting his feet on “solid ground” and giving him a “new song”? How does this relate to the idea of transformation in the sermon? ([06:03])

What does it mean that Jesus' name is “above every other name” and that He has “no rival or equal”? How does this shape our understanding of worship? ([16:11])

The sermon says God's goodness “actively pursues us, even when we stray or feel unworthy.”

How does this challenge or encourage someone who feels distant from God? ([41:57])

In Romans 12:1, Paul calls us to present our lives as a living sacrifice. How does this connect to the sermon's teaching that worship is more than singing—it's a life poured out in awe of God's holiness? ([52:25])

Application Questions

The sermon says God is present even when we can't see or feel Him. Think of a recent season of waiting, searching, or hurting in your life. How did you (or could you) look for God's hand in that situation? ([20:48])

Surrender is described as the doorway to freedom and a new identity. Is there an area of your life where you are struggling to surrender control to God? What would it look like to take a step of surrender this week? ([06:03])

The name of Jesus is called beautiful, wonderful, and powerful. When was the last time you declared the name of Jesus over a difficult circumstance? How did it affect your perspective or actions? ([16:11])

The sermon talks about God's goodness "running after" us. Can you recall a specific time when you recognized God's faithfulness in your life, even if it was only in hindsight? How can you remind yourself of His goodness in uncertain times? ([41:57])

Worship is described as a response to God's holiness, not just a song. What is one practical way you can make your daily life an act of worship this week? ([52:25])

The sermon encourages us to lay down our burdens and trust that God will never fail. What is one burden you are carrying right now that you need to lay at Jesus' feet? How can your group support you in this? ([50:24])

Turning our eyes upon Jesus helps the "things of earth grow strangely dim." Is there a specific distraction or worry that is keeping you from focusing on Jesus? What step can you take to shift your focus to Him this week? ([50:24])