

Come and Worship: Sing to the Lord
August 5, 2018
Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

(Psalm 100 NIV)

Worship will be our primary activity when we reach heaven. Isn't that exciting? No more hitting the snooze button on that alarm in a feeble attempt to delay the inevitable barrage of traffic jams, stress, dishes, laundry, bills, meal prep, etc that make up a good bit of our every days. (Oh and surely all the fun rides in heaven will have fast passes with less than 5 minute waits too!) Doesn't that sound glorious? We can only imagine the splendor of a work day that consists only of singing God's praises! And we will be singing y'all! Not the soft, whisper kind of humming we do when we're trying not to be heard. No, the belting it out, loud and proud kind of singing that is typically reserved for shower stalls or those moments when we are pretty sure no one else will hear us. What if we sang that way all the time? We might get some sideways stares but, who cares? God loves our joyful noises! We should probably go ahead and start preparing ourselves for this type of worship now so we have our A game in place when is it time to show our Father in heaven how hallowed be His name! This week we are going to talk about what kind of attitude and behavior we should be bringing to the Lord in our worship every day.

Digging Deeper

We sing to the Lord with...

THANKSGIVING for what God has done.

- The good Lord gave us minds for thinking and hearts for thanking. What is the best way to show someone you appreciate them? By expressing the ways in which you have been affected by their words or actions. Everything we are and all we have is a direct result of God's grace and mercy for us. So by approaching prayer and worship (a.k.a. conversation with and reverence for God) with grateful hearts, we honor and exalt God to His rightful position as the name above all names. How would you describe your worship and prayer life? Do you pray every day and throughout the day? How do you start off your prayer time? In what ways do you show God your appreciation for all you've been given?

PRAISE for what God can do.

- “[Enter God’s] courts with praise...praise his name.” (Psalm 100:4 NIV). Whereas thanksgiving focuses on what God has already done, praise is directed to what God can do. It is vital that we sing praises to the Lord because there is so much He can and will do. It’s why, in the NIV, the word praise(s), is used 182 times (in 150 Psalms). If worship is an act or feeling of reverence for our God, then praise is our expression of such emotions. When we take our feelings to the next level by verbalizing them, we make them known and celebrate the source of our affection. What are some ways in which you and your family celebrate the Lord for who He is and all He’s done (and will do) for you? For God to increase, we must decrease. Living in a constant state of “Praise God!” is a surefire way to shift the focus from “me” to “He”! Let’s make sure to applaud Him for the big and the small...and through it all!

WORSHIP for who God is.

- Are you someone who sings along to worship music? If you don’t, what holds you back? If you do, have you ever asked yourself if your worship is more than just a song? The next time you are in a worship setting, stop to focus on the words you are singing and for whom you cry out. If we pursue a connection with God that is uninhibited by the presence of others or how they might perceive us in that moment, monumental spiritual barriers can be broken. Of course, this requires vulnerability and a complete lack of self-awareness, but it is the most effective way to authentically and deeply connect to God through worship. Try submitting yourself in this way the next time you find yourself in a worship environment. Take time to reflect on what you felt and if it changed anything inside of you. Then share with someone close to you about your experience and if it was different or intoxicating in a way you haven’t experienced before (or recently). When we allow ourselves to become “drunk” with the Holy Spirit we open a door to freedom found only when we are controlled by a Force much more capable than we can summon by our own power.

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.” (Ephesians 5:18-19 NLT)

Conclusion

When we sing to the Lord, we demonstrate that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. It our best and most precious gift for the One who gave us all. And honestly, it is something we owe to Him every single minute of every single day. Are you in? Here we are to worship. Here we are to bow down. Here we are to say that you’re our God!