



**Sermon Series:** The Heart of Worship

**To be used with** Session 3: The Attitude in Worship

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** An Attitude of Gratitude, A New Song, A Reason to Rejoice

**Scripture:** Psalm 40:1-11

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “The Heart of Worship,” this sermon helps us prioritize our lives around the One person who is worthy of our allegiance, God. As we surrender our lives to God and God alone, then and only then will we be able to live, love, and lead those around us to Him. This relationship with God changes everything about our lives. It causes others to see the transformation that has taken place in our lives.

**Introduction:** A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”<sup>1</sup> What we think about God shapes whether He is a priority in our lives. If someone has a small view of God, then God will play a small part in their life. But, if someone has a big view of God, that will lead to God playing a big part in their life. This tells us that we must have a big God theology if God is going to have allegiance in our lives. The big view of God and what He has done in David’s life is the crux of the teaching in Psalm 40. It is all about the attitude of our worship and David begins by speaking about the God who changed his attitude.

### **1. Rejoice in what God has done. (Psalm 40:1-5)**

It has been said, “If you see a turtle sitting on a fence post, it did not get there by accident” (Author Unknown). The point of that saying is that the turtle did not get there by himself, someone put the turtle on the fence post. This is also true of King David in Psalm 40 in verses one through five. In these verses, David starts and ends by pointing to what the LORD has done for him. Yahweh, the relational God of Israel, has heard his cry. This should cause us to never stop crying out to the God who hears our desperate cries. It is the LORD who saved David, and for that he gives glory to Him. He understood that salvation belongs to the LORD (Psalm 3:8). The God who transformed David’s life led him to have an attitude of gratitude.

In order to have an attitude of gratitude, one has to remember the transformation that has taken place in their life. David’s transformation led him to have a new song in his mouth in verse 3, a song of praise. God’s mercies gave David a reason to rejoice, and he had a new song to sing. The new song that David had to sing came because of him putting his trust in the LORD. We sing because we have been saved and so that others may be saved. We have experienced His mercy so that we may go proclaim about the wonderful deeds of the LORD. David had not only been saved from something, but he had been saved for something; to proclaim His name.

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<sup>1</sup> A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco: Harper One, 1978. 3.

## **2. Regimented to do God's will. (Psalm 40:6-8)**

It is not about what we do, but it is about the deeds of the LORD. In vs. 6-8 we see that God is not after our sacrifices. James Hamilton said, "These verses seem to reflect Samuel's confrontation of Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 15:22-23."<sup>2</sup> God desires obedience rather than sacrifice. We then see a shift in vs. 8 when David said, "I delight to do your will; your law is within my heart." Why does David delight to do God's will if sacrifice and offerings are not what God delights in? Again, we see that there has been a transformation in David's heart. He now delights in the law of God, which is in his heart. David had a reason to rejoice, and it was because of the law of God that was written on his heart. The new song that David has comes from his delight to do God's will. It is about the attitude of the heart being transformed by Yahweh. To do God's will, we must have an open ear ready to obey God's will. He must change our attitude towards his will and our own will.

## **3. Ready to declare his praises. (Psalm 40:9-11)**

Unfortunately, many times preachers don't have anything to say. The reason for this is because they have forgotten the good news of the Gospel. They don't remember their life before Christ transformed it. Another way to put it is that they have gotten over their salvation. Have you gotten over your salvation? In vs.9-11, he communicates the good news of deliverance that Yahweh brings to all of those who place their faith in Him. His mouth spoke what was in his heart. Peter said something similar in Acts 4:20 he said, "for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." David cannot stop speaking about that which had taken hold of his life, God. The deliverance that he has experienced, the faithfulness of the LORD, and His mercy towards David gave him a reason to rejoice. He had an attitude of gratitude, and it changed who he worshipped!

## **Conclusion**

In the rat race of life do you forget who deserves all our allegiance? Does your attitude need to be adjusted? Do you have a reason to rejoice? Do you have a new song in your heart? Do you have something to say? Because of the transforming power of God to change our attitude of worship we can live, love, and lead those around us to Him. Our lives are a living testimony of the power that God possesses to deliver anyone from sin and self. This causes us to look away from self and look to the God who delivers. It puts a new song in our hearts. E.A. Hoffman wrote, "What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace in mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms."<sup>3</sup> Thank God that we can lean safe and secure on the everlasting arms of the one who drew us from the pit of destruction, and out of the miry bog. He did it so that others can see that there is good news for them as well. He changes the attitude of our worship from worshipping self to worshipping the Savior.

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<sup>2</sup> James, M. Hamilton. *Psalms Volume 1-72*. Bellingham: (Lexham Academic, 2021), 333.

<sup>3</sup> [https://hymnary.org/text/what\\_a\\_fellowship\\_what\\_a\\_joy\\_divine](https://hymnary.org/text/what_a_fellowship_what_a_joy_divine)

**Author Bio**

*Quintell Hill is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Preaching from Clump Divinity School at Anderson University. He has served for 20 years in pastoral ministry and is the lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, NC. He also serves as an African American Church Mobilization Strategist with the International Mission Board. He and his wife Christie have two daughters, Moriah and Kharis.*