



# + YOU

Winter 2024-25  
The Heart of Worship

**Sermon Title:** Amazing Grace . . . and Compassion

**To be used with Session 2:** The Inspiration for Worship

**Scripture:** Psalm 145:8-10

**Connection with the Study:** To complement the study, “The Inspiration for Worship,” this sermon will emphasize God’s grace and compassion as moving forces that inspire us to worship Him. God never changes. His grace and compassion are still, and will forever be, in operation.

Psalm 145 is a psalm of David. It is a psalm of praise. David was praising the Lord for His wonderfully mighty acts, worthy of telling from generation to generation, for His gift of providing eternal life, and for the way He responds to people who love Him. As we read of David’s praise to the God, we are inspired to examine how He has shown grace and compassion to us.

**Introduction:** From before time began, God has been. Even before the moment He created anything at all, He was. Not only did God exist, but His character was also established and has been constant. God never changes. Scripture teaches us in James 1:17, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” We must, therefore, realize that our Father, who was gracious and compassion in King David’s day, is still who He has always been. With that realization, we can rely on Him to be gracious and compassionate to us as His children.

## **1. God is gracious and compassionate (Ps. 145:8a).**

The idea of grace is found in the example of someone being given an undeserved gift. God is gracious in that He gives where it is undeserved. We do not deserve to be forgiven, redeemed, and given an inheritance in Heaven. We deserve quite the opposite.

Equally, we do not deserve God’s compassion. The Hebrew word translated here as *compassionate* has also been translated as *merciful*. Mercy and compassion are expressed when a negative punishment or consequence that is deserved is withheld by the one who could administer it. God is compassionate in that He withholds punishment from those who deserve it when they receive Jesus Christ. Jesus removes the punishment and takes it upon Himself. He took our guilt and, in exchange, gave us His innocence so we might be found righteous in God’s eyes.

God is full of grace and compassion toward His children. We who are His are given the privilege of heaven and are saved from our deserved consequence of sin: hell. God's grace and compassion are wonderful gifts!

## **2. God is slow to anger and full of love (Ps. 145:8b).**

In this psalm, David declared God's patience and longsuffering love for Israel who, although they were His children, continued returning to their sinful, rebellious ways. Like an earthly father, God tolerates an immense amount from His children. We, in return, should be grateful. God tolerates our ingratitude, rebellious actions, and selfishness. Like spoiled children, we often fail to be thankful and turn back toward the ways of lost people. This should not be.

God is full of love. His essence is love. 1 John 4:8 says simply, "...God is love." His love is indescribable from our perspective. John 3:16 describes the depth of His love in that He sent His only Son so that whoever believes upon Jesus will be saved. This sacrificial love is beyond our capacity. In John 15:13, Jesus was recorded as saying, "No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends." God is full of love. God is love.

## **3. We praise God because He is good and compassionate to all (Ps. 145:9-10).**

God's goodness is expressed to all people through His common grace. This is God's universal grace. It is not saving grace, but includes universal blessings such as sustenance, pleasure, learning, beauty, the earth, and other good things that He has given to everyone.

Consider the beauty of God's creation. A sense of God having designed and ordered the universe is perceptible when we examine creation from the smallest ant to the greatest galaxy. Nature points to God, and consequently, no one is without excuse concerning sin and salvation.

God's children are to praise Him for all His works, both great and small. God's goodness permeates creation. Common grace is extended to all people and to the very universe. As we consider reasons to worship Him, we only need to look around, take everything in, and worship. Romans 1:20 reads, "From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse."

**Conclusion:** God is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and full of love. He even extends love in the form of common grace to those who refuse to love Him. Each of these attributes of God are more than enough to inspire us to worship Him. Together, they should bring us to a great swelling of our hearts that erupts in pure gratitude.

There is no other being like God. As we consider reasons to worship Him, we must realize that His character is sufficient. He is unique. His attributes are pure and holy. His grace is amazing. His compassion is incomprehensible. He is God.

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