

# Making Known His Glorious Splendor to the Generations

## Psalm 145

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### **Psalm 145:1-13**

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

**2** Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.

**3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

**4** One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

**5** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**6** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

**7** They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**8** The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**9** The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**10** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

**11** They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

**12** to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

[The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.]

I love you. I love you because you are created in the image of God. By the implication of being created in the image of God this means you have value and worth. So, I love you. At a conference I attended, an apologist began every lecture

at a conference this way. He would walk to the front of the room, take a long moment, looking back and forth across the attentive eyes, and proclaim to them, I love you. I love you because you are made in the image of God. The last time he spoke, he said I love you...do you know why? Almost in unison, the entire room responded, because we are made in the image of God. I was so moved at this moment. What a powerful truth he had impressed on them. See, they are seen, valued, and loved, not because of anything they did. Not because they were on time for the lecture, not because they were able to answer his questions, not because they were good enough, or tried hard enough, but they were seen, valued and loved because of whose they are. Because they are a reflection of the creator... They are made in the image of God.

As I look across this room, I want to take a moment for us to just take a breath. Most of us walked in the building this morning carrying some degree of baggage. Maybe you walked in this building, and your mind was heavy with the pressures of life, and you didn't sleep well last night. Maybe, you woke up this morning feeling... I just don't know if I have it in me today... Maybe you had to wrestle your kids to get dressed this morning. Maybe you were running late and spilled your coffee. Maybe you argued with your spouse. Maybe you're sitting here with a new health diagnosis, and you're scared and hurting. Maybe you're struggling with addiction or a sin that has a tight grasp on you. And you don't know if you are strong enough to fight the temptation. I need you to hear something this morning. As your church family, we see you... we value you... We love you. I don't say that lightly... we love you. We love you because you are made in the image of God, not because of anything you bring to the table. Today, you may not feel like an image bearer of God. But if the God of the universe has declared it, then why should we even try to fight it. As a born-again believer in Christ, this makes you

my brothers and sisters. Listen, this means we are family. Just coming off of Thanksgiving, we know that family can get messy. For some of us the word family brings great memories of times of laughter, and joy, a place of safety and peace. BUT for others of us the word family makes us cringe.

Our families may have caused us hurt and pain. Or maybe you are single, or widowed, or always wanted kids but were unable, or maybe you are in a tough marriage where even though you live in the same house, you feel so alone. The word family brings up so many emotions. Our sin wrecked world has brought such hurt to something that was created so perfect. BUT we love you, because you are made in the image of God. So, today we gather, even in the hard times of life and we choose to worship, as a family.

King David wrote this Psalm. This is actually a poem of praise that extols, that praises, God's greatness, mercy, and everlasting kingdom. This begins with David sharing his heart for God. He makes this public declaration where he is being intentional to say, you are God, and I am choosing not to just follow You, but I am choosing, with all that I am, to praise You. David is so deeply in love with God, he is so full of awe and wonder with God, finds such joy with who God simply is. Many scholars believe this was the last Psalm David wrote. This is a moment where David, potentially, was looking over the span of his life reflecting over the greatest victories as well as his most devastating failures, but he was able to see the faithfulness of God through it all. The same is true for us. If we pause here for just a moment. Reflect over your life. Consider your greatest victories and your greatest failures. In the moment we may not be able to identify it, but looking back, can you see God's faithfulness through it all? David's response to praise was a declaration of his love for the Lord. The love that David had for God was not

conditional upon receiving any blessing or winning any battle, David simply loves God for who He is.

This Psalm is actually written as an acrostic using all the letters of the Hebrew alphabet as a structural feature in Hebrew poetry. One pastor shared that Psalm 145 is the A-Z of praise.

The first reason David gave us to stand together as family, in praise is- **God's Greatness**

David says, "I WILL extol you... I WILL bless you". To extol is to lift high, to exalt, to raise up, to praise with enthusiasm. This is not just an emotional response for David, but a choice for his life. He says, "I will extol you, My God and King." David was compelled to praise God, because he knew God personally. He said, MY God and King. David had walked with God, had been blessed by God, had been made king of Israel by God, had been disciplined by God, had been restored by God.

David knew God personally. David reflected over his life and was able to see God's hand at work through it all. This was not some religious requirement, or religious duty that David felt. Instead, this was a response to his spiritual cup, overflowing as he reflected on how amazing God is.

Listen, this is an important point that has to be made. True praise can only begin by KNOWING God, as He has revealed Himself to be. It begins by knowing God, having a relationship with God, submitting to His commands and His way. True praise can only begin in a life that has been born again to the Spirit. David, politically standing in a position of power and authority, knew that at the end of the day he was a man, under the authority of God. One commentator states, "This is a significant statement from the mouth of Israel's king, for it acknowledges that

although David may have been king of the elect nation of Israel, God is nevertheless the King of kings and therefore David's king too. And not only King of kings, He is the ultimate King of all creations and all persons. He is your king because He made you and is over you, whether you acknowledge His rule or not"

David's praise is not sporadic based on how he felt. David's commitment says, you are the God of my life both today and forever. This is a similar declaration like Joshua made **24:15 15 ...choose this day whom you will serve, ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" David makes the decree that every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever. We are given this example that our time of worship is not confined to this building for sixty minutes on Sunday mornings. Wait, let's be real... It's more like Seventy-five minutes if Brian is preaching.

This word praise is a "church" word that we sometimes struggle to define. There are a couple different Hebrew words that translate to "praise." One Hebrew word gives the idea "to, give thanks, or to confess." A second word in the Old Testament is *when we* "sing praise." A third word (the root of *hallelujah*), means "to praise, honor, or commend." All three terms contain the idea of giving thanks and honor to one who is worthy of praise. For David, nothing could hold back the overwhelming praise that he had for God. I think it is easy for us to picture David with his arms raised, hands open, passionately crying out, singing songs of praise to God, as he exclaims "hallelujah."

**I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.**

David was fully aware about how the story would end. He was reflecting over the duration of his life, and knew that even as he took his final breath on this

earth... he would in a moment be transferred into glory, where the cries of his lips would continue to be praise to his God and King.

**3** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

In an attempt for David to emphasize to the best of his human abilities the greatness of God, David says, God's greatness is unsearchable. You can bring together all the smartest people in the world with the highest IQs and give them an eternity of time, and they still will not figure God out. It is impossible to summit to the heights of God, it is impossible to plummet to the depths of the Almighty. God is absolutely great beyond all comprehension.

So, we praise God for His greatness.

The second reason David gave us to stand together as a family in praise is- **God's**

### **Works**

**4** One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

**5** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**6** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

**7** They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

David says “one generation shall... they WILL commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.” Does the tone of this poem sound like David

was like... uggg I was given a command to tell people about God, I guess I better do it. Was David like, if only I could go through an evangelism course, then I would be prepared to tell people about God. Was David like... isn't telling others about God, the pastor's job " Listen, Davids says I WILL extol you, my God and King. With overflowing enthusiasm, David is telling others all that he DOES know about God. David is like... My God- He is so big, He is unsearchable, my God, He is full of glorious splendor... my God, the things He does... they are awesome. My God, he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and His love is steady. And David is like... that is just the beginning of who my God is... Do you know God? Can I tell you more?

David wasn't pointing to his seminary degree on the wall and arguing over details. David was grabbing people and was like... have you heard about my God? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Let me tell you about how amazing He is! David wanted to tell everyone! all generations!

**4 One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

The word "commend" means "to address in a loud voice, shout, triumph, or glorify. Commend in this context implies an enthusiastic, public, and often loud declaration of God's works and mighty acts."

What are these works that he is so excited about? We may look at this and believe it is creation itself. In context, it is believed that Israel understood these works as the power to deliver them from slavery in Egypt and bring them into the Promised Land. But the greatest of God's works are His salvation works, His works of saving us from our sin through Christ.

One pastor stated, “Not only does this call one generation to tell another generation, by imparting truth, but it speaks of a certain kind of imparting. It is imparting with praise and for praise.” The goal of teaching generations is not about just imparting facts about who God is to another generation. It is not just about filling their heads with knowledge so they can dominate at Bible Trivia. It does not say “one generation shall merely TEACH your works to another. It says, one generation shall PRAISE your works to another. It’s a vibrant, full-hearted transmission of faith from one generation to the next, meant to inspire enthusiasm and awe for God.

Our job is to passionately and faithfully share with the generations about how and why we praise God. Then we pray for the Holy Spirit to draw the hearts of the next generation near to God. Then we pray that the next generation will respond and join with us, as family. That they will join another voice, to our voice collectively, to praise the one who is worthy!

As Jesus was riding into Jerusalem just prior to His crucifixion, the streets were full of people praising God.

### **Luke 19**

As Jesus was nearing Jerusalem... —the whole multitude of his disciples (Joined in the type of praise we see in Psalm 145. The disciples began to praise God, began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen,**38** saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **39** And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him (Jesus), “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” **40** He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Church, do we praise God in such a way that we believe, if we are silenced, that the very rocks would cry out the glory of God? Do we have that kind of view of God? THAT is that view of God that generations NEED to know... THAT is that view of God that generations need to see us authentically living out.

Yes, I believe Psalm 78 and Deuteronomy 6 both show us that the primary disciple makers of children are intended to be their parents. Specifically, the primary leadership for discipling your kids is placed on the fathers. BUT if we are brothers and sisters in the faith. Then your kids are my family too. And I want them to know how amazing God is. This is the part where Pastor Brian suggested I break out into the song "We Are Family." But I will spare you that tragedy! BUT, because we are family, I want to partner with you in discipling your kids. In the Student Ministry we have all generations represented. We have college age adults that serve alongside single adults, that serve alongside married adults, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas... all standing next to jr. high and high school students, praising God TOGETHER. One voice, collectively, praising God together. I think back over the years and how there have been students that have actually challenged their parents in their faith and have led an example for them of living boldly for Christ. I remember one student, that through his example of praising God, his dad placed his faith and trust in Jesus. The student was the one that got to baptize his dad!

Growing up, what was it like for your family when everyone got together for a holiday meal? Did the adults sit at one table while the kids sat at their own table? In my family, growing up I never remember having a kids' table. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, when we all sat down for dinner, it didn't matter how old you

were, you had a seat at the table. I grew up in a family where kids were seen, heard, and valued. This means when conversation was going on, my opinions were welcomed. Now, I may not have had much to add when my grandma was proclaiming that Matlock was the best TV show ever to be produced... but nonetheless, I had a seat at that table.

Here is one thing I found interesting in this Psalm. It says

**4 One generation shall commend your works to another,**

Wait a second. This puts everyone at the table. This places the conversation about how amazing God is, on everyone at the table. I love hearing the AWANA kids saying verses. They have a seat at the table. They are telling us older generations the truths of who God is, as they recite these verses. And then I go to SecondWinders, and I am encouraged by seeing a room full of people that have been steadily running the race in their faith. They have a seat at the table. One of the very first times I preached, I walked off the platform and a man twice my age grabbed me by the shoulders and began to pray over me. In contrast, two summers ago in Belize on a mission trip, one of my high school students grabbed me and prayed over me. God has allowed the blessing and privilege to be placed on all generations, to tell all generations of the glorious splendor of His majesty. As family, we love you. We love you because you are made in the image of God. This means you have worth and value. Church, you are all welcome to the table, every one of you! Every one of you who has placed their faith in the finished work on the cross, is welcome to the table. I love to just glance around this room while we are worshiping God through song. There are kids dancing, husbands and wives holding hands as they sing praises. There are people who are single, people

who are widows, people whose spouse is working, or their spouse just won't come to church. There are people who walk in this room and feel loved and people who walk in here and are anxious. BUT... we are all family, all generations standing together, with one purpose, to “extol you, my God and King and bless your name forever and ever.”

I love that God has placed so many different generations here at Edgewood. Our nursery is full of young babies. SecondWinders are busting the seams of our Life Center. In our worship services, we have all generations represented here, and I love this. BUT verse 4 says:

**4 One generation shall commend your works to another,**

I love that we are more than a church that is multi-generational... a multi-generational church has multiple generations of people that attend but do not know anyone outside of their silo, their generational group? They may all sit in the same room and worship at the same time, but they don't really see the other generations, value and love the other generations. We just had Fran who is part of our SecondWinders ministry, joining Norah who is part of our kids ministry, to lead us all, as we read God's Word today. Norah and Fran have actually sparked a friendship. They are not two generations that are praising God in the same building, but they are two generations that see, value, and love each other. They KNOW each other, they pray for each other. I love that we are a church where generations are coming together and telling each other about how amazing God is. Telling other generations about how God is working in their lives. I love that we are a church where we are coming together. All generations, with one voice

**4 One generation shall commend your works to another,**

I walked by a men's group on a Thursday night, and saw guys in their 20's and 30's sitting at the same table as guys in their 60's. They were talking through life, praying for each other. We have groups of people in their 20's meeting for discipleship and accountability with people in the 70's and 80's! I loved our Laboring in Prayer service we had on Labor Day weekend. In that service we had people from different generations and different ministries coming together to lead in prayer. The church coming together, all generations declaring praise to God.

The third reason David gave us to stand together in praise is- **God's Compassion**

**8** The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**9** The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

As David was writing these lines, perhaps he was reflecting back on the words of Moses in the book of Exodus. Moses was commanded to meet God on the top of Mt. Sinai.

**5** The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. **6** The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." **8** And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

In context, this is actually the second time that Moses received the commandments from God. After Moses first received the Ten Commandments from God, he found the Israelites had turned from God and began worshipping a golden calf. In a rage, Moses broke the tablets then ascended the mountain again to receive a second set of tablets. I think about Moses climbing back up Mt. Siani, what was he supposed to say to God? What did Moses think God was going to say? I mean God had been so faithful to the Israelites, and they continued to reject Him. If I were climbing that mountain, I would be ready to get reprimanded by God, for God's wrath to be poured out. And yet in this moment, God passes in front of Moses and does not just whisper, but calls out to Moses... making sure Moses is clear on who God is. In a moment when Moses may have been expecting discipline, God reminded Moses who He is. God had all rights to be angry, but instead he said...

I'm compassionate and gracious.

In the midst of the Israelites rejecting me, I'm still slow to anger.

In fact... my love is still abounding for you... both in my devotion and my faithfulness

I don't change...and I never will... I will maintain that loving devotion to a thousand generations!!!!

God says: Moses, I will forgive them. I will forgive their iniquity, I will forgive their transgression, I will forgive their sin. In essence God is saying, in any way, that they have rebelled against me, I will forgive them!

Moses responded by putting his face to the ground and worshipping God.

Why? Because God is worthy of it. In this moment, as the Israelites were turning from God, God was still like, it doesn't matter what you have done...

come back to the table. You all have a place at this table. You are seen, you are valued and you are loved. God is like I love you.... Do you know why I love you? Because you are made in God's image. Man, God is so good to us.

Moses' response to having a right understanding of God's character was an immediate reaction of worship.

Similarly, David says that worship should be our response also. BUT David is not just saying that worship should be our response, but is leading an example of that worship to God in this Psalm.

**10** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!

**11** They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,

**12** to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The fourth reason David gave us to stand together in praise is- **God's Kingship**

In verse 10, we see the true magnitude of God's power. Not only will all the saints... all the believers bless God, but it starts that all of God's works shall give thanks to Him. It is this moment where both creation and mankind will join in unison and speak of the glory of God's kingdom and tell of His power, FOR THE PURPOSE to make known to the children of man... to make known to every nation, every tribe, and every language. All of creation is crying out in unison with every believer professing the mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of the kingdom of God. A kingdom that is everlasting and whose rule endures throughout all generations!

The word kingdom is used four times in three verses. What is this kingdom referring to in these passages? It refers to God's universal and continuous reign over all of creation.

Psalm- 47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.

Psalm- 103:19

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

He is the King and He will reign over all creation for eternity.

I have heard the phrase that we are only one generation away from the extinction of Christianity. In fact in August 2014, atheist Lawrence Krauss stated:

“Change is always **one generation away** . . . So if we can plant the seeds of doubt in our children, religion will go away in a generation, or at least largely go away—and that's what I think we have an obligation to do.”

In the book of Judges, we read: of the accuracy of Krauss's statement

*“And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel. (Judges 2:7)*

There is a generation that knew God and all His works. Then we are told Joshua and the generation with him who saw the great works of the Lord, died.

*And there arose **another generation after them who did not know the LORD** or the work that he had done for Israel. And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD (Judges 2:10–12)*

They lost the spiritual legacy they had, in **one generation**.

God's plan is for the gospel to be passed down to the next generation, for us to share how amazing God is with all generations, is placed on all of us. I have shared with you before that the weight of my new role as a grandpa has rested heavily on me. I want to do all that I can to disciple tiny Mabel, so she will grow up knowing how amazing the Lord is, and will one day place her faith and trust in His mightiest deed of paying the price for her sin. And that through placing her faith and trust in Jesus she can have life in abundance and know, for herself, the glorious splendor of His kingdom. I want to do all that I can to partner with her mom and dad in this discipleship. But listen, church... family... God has placed this role on all of us.

and ALL your saints shall bless you!

**11** They (all believers... including you) shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

**12** to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,

But this idea that we are one generation away from the extinction of Christianity, simply is not true. God has one plan for the redemption of man and that was accomplished through the cross. Verse 13 tells us that

**13** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Worldly kingdoms come crashing down, countries that are superpowers will one day fall. Our lives individually are but a vapor. The only thing that endures time is God's Kingdom. There is nothing that will stop God's plans... He will come back, He will place his feet on the Mount of Olives, God's enemies will be defeated, the

antichrist and the false prophet will be thrown into the fiery lake, Jesus will set up His kingdom. And He will be King over the earth. Evil is defeated, the earth is restored, and God wins. None of this is dependent upon anything we could possibly do.

What is our role in this plan?

Our role is to worship God, to praise God. King David looking over his life was so confident in who God was that he made the choice.

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

4 One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

## Conclusion

What are you praising God for today? What mighty works have you seen Him do in your life? I am naturally an optimist. But I find it disheartening when I ask someone "what's going on in life?" and their response is so negative. I know it is easy to get into a rut. I know that depression is real. I know that life circumstances can get overwhelming and begin to take up so much head space. But what we see from David in this Psalm is that he took the attention off of himself. David referred to himself 3 times in this Psalm- I will extol you, I will meditate, I will declare your greatness. Even the times David referred to himself, it was in context to how he was keeping his focus on praising God.

What are we passing on to all generations? Are we passing bitterness? Unforgiveness? Anxiety? David says we should be passing praise to another generation.

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

If you are not in a place where you find yourself overflowing with praise, these verses give us a directive...

### **We hear praises**

**4** One generation shall commend your works to another,

We first need to hear how amazing God is

### **THEN We meditate on God's wondrous works**

**5** On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

### **We declare praise to God**

**6** They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.

I think we often hear... but it is only head knowledge. We skip the step of meditating on God's word. By skipping this step we don't allow the Holy Spirit to press these truths into our hearts... to use God's living word to mold and shape us.

So in that case it makes sense we would find our spiritual cup empty, instead of overflowing with praise to God.

First, we need someone to share how amazing God is with us. Then, we internalize it, allow it to change us, to understand just how amazing God is. Our response is that we choose to live a life of praise to God, because He is worth it. The overflow of our praise shares with all generations the glory of God.

## APPLICATION

If you don't find yourself full of praise for God, maybe you need to take some time to meditate on the character of God? To understand the greatness, works, compassion, and kingship of God.

After reading this Psalm, one of my buddies shared with me that he and his daughter had discussion about what they were praising God for that day. This could be a great daily discussion with family and friends. Instead of just asking someone "how are you today," maybe we could greet people with the phrase of "how are you praising God today?"

Listen, I love you. Because you are made in the image of God, I love you. We are family here. We are brothers and sisters. Family can be messy, but God has made us family. We join together not 300 voices singing praise, but one united voice singing the praises of God. What makes us family is the Gospel.

Maybe today you have not made the decision to place your faith and trust in Christ and the finished work of the cross. I love you enough that I want you to know the praises of God. I want you to know how amazing He is, I want you to know what He has done for us. I want you to know - G.O.S.P.E.L.