

FBC Devotion Thursday October 14 2021 Psalms 95-96 Authentic Worship

I think we've all experienced worship services where we had to fight back a yawn and wondered if God was there at all. Was it the style of the music or the content of the sermon, or was it the condition of our hearts? **It's only when our hearts are right before God that there's exuberance in our worship.**

Different people have different ideas about worship. Ask a Pentecostal; an Anglican; a Catholic; a Wesleyan/Methodist; ask young people; or older believers. Some people like formal, liturgical worship. Some prefer traditional hymns. Some prefer Southern Gospel harmonies. Some prefer contemporary choruses. The spectrum runs from pipe organs to electric guitars.

Some think that you can't worship with a song unless it's at least fifty years old and the Scripture reading is from the KJV. On the other side of the scale some think you can't worship with a song if it's more than five years old. With different generations and cultural mixes in our churches, it's no wonder that our preferences are so widely varied. **However, the important factor is not so much How we worship but That we worship.**

Authentic worship, the joyful praise of Almighty God is the impetus that drives us. **Unless we learn to stand in awe of God and wonder at His glory, everything else will be an exercise in weariness.**

Worship involves singing. *"Come, let us sing to the LORD"* Our song of worship should be new because we've been made anew in Christ and because God's mercies are new every day.

Worship includes praising God. *"Let us sing psalms of praise to Him."* When we praise God we magnify who He is much more than anything He has done or will do. Praise lifts up His nature and character.

Worship means acknowledging He is the creator. *"His hands made the dry land."* It may seem out of place, but God's work as creator is foundational. Everything else in our relationship with Him flows out of accepting His role as maker of heaven and earth. *"Know that the LORD is God. It's He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."* (Psalm 100:3)

Worship is proclaiming His salvation and telling others of God's glory. *"Proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all people."* Our worship is incomplete if it remains captive in the sanctuary.

Worship means giving an offering to God. *"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His court."* The type of offering described by the Psalmist is a thank offering. **We can't truly celebrate the worth of our Saviour and Creator without being moved to give back to Him.** Authentic worship shows itself in generous giving to God, who gave of His very best for us.

Worship causes us to tremble before God's holiness. *"Worship the LORD in the splendour of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth."*

Worship means celebrating His return. A day is coming when all the world will be united in worship. On the day when Christ returns and God judges the earth, all believers will worship as one, and creation will join in worship. **What a great day that will be!**