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## WORSHIP

Suggested worship songs: Sing, House of the Lord, Indescribable, Doxology, How Great is Our God, For You Are Glorious

## WELCOME

Have there been some difficult things in your life lately that led to some complaining or grumbling on your part?

## WORD

### Psalm 95:1-11

O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,  
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.  
<sup>2</sup> Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.  
<sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God  
And a great King above all gods,  
<sup>4</sup> In whose hand are the depths of the earth,  
The peaks of the mountains are His also.  
<sup>5</sup> The sea is His, for it was He who made it,  
And His hands formed the dry land.  
<sup>6</sup> Come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
<sup>7</sup> For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.  
Today, if you would hear His voice,  
<sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,  
<sup>9</sup> "When your fathers tested Me,  
They tried Me, though they had seen My work.  
<sup>10</sup> "For forty years I loathed *that* generation,  
And said they are a people who err in their heart,  
And they do not know My ways.  
<sup>11</sup> "Therefore I swore in My anger,  
Truly they shall not enter into My rest."

To **worship God with your whole being** begins with your head—knowing who God is. It then flows from your mouth as you sing and speak about Him. It transforms your heart and ultimately directs your hands in obedience. If worship is our proper response to God, then the more we know Him, the greater our response will be. Worship is the natural by-product of knowing God.

If you have not experienced God's work in your life or understood what He has done for you, you will struggle to worship Him wholeheartedly. Worship is a measure of our spiritual condition. We can continue to worship even in difficult circumstances because worship responds not only to what God has done, but also to what He will continue to do. A life of worship is never dependent on circumstances.

### **Worship with Your Head**

True worship is beautifully described in Psalm 95. We are commanded to gather together and "sing for joy to the LORD" and "shout joyfully" to Him with songs of praise (vv. 1–2). Our worship is directed to God, not to the people around us. We are also told to come into His presence with thanksgiving. Every time we gather for worship, we should be conscious that God is present. That awareness should affect how we prepare, how we arrive, and how we conduct ourselves in His house.

We worship joyfully because the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods, and our Creator (Psalm 95:3–5). David understood this well. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem, he worshiped with all his might, dancing before the LORD together with the people (2 Samuel 6:14–15). His wife, Michal, despised him because she thought his worship was undignified (vv. 16, 20). David, however, was focused on pleasing God, not impressing people (vv. 21–22). Sadly, Michal's heart attitude displeased the Lord (v. 23).

Private worship is essential, but corporate worship is also God's command. Come prepared to meet with Him, and never treat worship casually.

### **Worship with Your Heart**

Psalm 95 calls us to bow down and kneel before the Lord because He is our God and we are the people of His pasture (v. 6). Worship involves reverence. Bowing and kneeling are outward expressions of hearts that recognize God's greatness.

Throughout Scripture, personal encounters with God produced reverence. Moses removed his sandals before the burning bush (Exodus 3:4–5). Joshua did the same before the Commander of the Lord's army (Joshua 5:14–15). When the apostle John saw the risen Christ, he fell at His feet as though dead until Jesus comforted him (Revelation 1:17–18). One day, believers from every nation will stand before the Lamb, worshiping together with angels and the heavenly hosts (Revelation 7:9–12).

Small worship comes from a small view of God. Great worship comes from seeing Him as He truly is.

David saw God's greatness, power, glory, victory, and majesty. Recognizing that everything he possessed came from God, he gave generously toward building the temple (1 Chronicles 29:10–17). Worship even affects our finances. Since everything belongs to God, generosity becomes a joyful response, not a reluctant obligation. We surrender everything to Him and give with grateful hearts.

### **Worship with Your Hands**

Worship is ultimately expressed through obedience. As Warren Wiersbe said, "**The proof of worship is obedience.**" Jesus Himself asked, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Is there something God has been asking you to do that you continue to ignore? Psalm 95 warns us not to harden our hearts as Israel did in the wilderness (vv. 7–9). Despite witnessing God's miracles, they repeatedly complained, doubted Him, and refused to trust Him. A hardened heart develops gradually. Sin no longer bothers us. God's Word loses its impact. We become resistant to correction and ignore our conscience.

At Meribah, the Israelites concluded that God had brought them into the wilderness to kill them rather than trust His promises (Exodus 17:1–7; Numbers 14:2–3). Because of their persistent unbelief, that generation never entered the Promised Land (Numbers 14:22–23; Psalm 95:10–11). True worship is not merely singing with our lips or bowing with our bodies—it is obeying with our lives.

The book of Hebrews explains that Israel's disobedience was rooted in unbelief (Hebrews 3:18–19). To claim we believe while refusing to obey is self-deception. God invites us into His rest, but we must respond when we hear His voice. "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7–8).

The writer also warns believers to encourage one another daily so that no one is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12–13). Hardened hearts rarely happen overnight—they develop one compromise at a time.

If God is convicting you about something today, do not delay. Continued disobedience eventually leads to spiritual shipwreck (1 Timothy 1:19). Instead, persevere in trusting Christ and holding firmly to Him (Hebrews 3:14–15).

It has often been said that the greatest distance in the Christian life is the distance between the head and the heart. We may know the truth, yet fail to live it. Ask God to give you a soft and obedient heart.

Obedience may be costly, but disobedience always costs more. When we resist God, we forfeit the joy of His presence. But when we surrender to Him, we experience His peace. As God promised Moses, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14).

Stop fighting God. Surrender your life to Him. Be still, know that He is God (Psalm 46:10), and worship Him with your head, your heart, and your hands.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. What are the ways we can worship God according to Psalm 95?
2. Why are we to worship God according to Psalm 95?
3. What does the warning, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts," mean according to Psalm 95?

# WORKS

## PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for more people to encounter the Living God in their everyday lives through the work of His Spirit. Let God use you to be one of the "ways" through which people come to see who the Lord truly is. Share Jesus with them that they may truly know the God who is worthy to be worshipped with our whole being.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- Pray for persecuted Christians in Sudan and Nigeria) --- many have been beheaded and murdered; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Continue to pray for Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory. For Jewish people worldwide who are experiencing a surge of antisemitism. May this lead them to the Messiah, Jesus as they turn to God for help and comfort.
- For nations in turmoil (e.g., Ukraine, Middle Eastern countries, etc.) to experience true freedom in Christ and become centers for massive spiritual revivals in their regions. For new Iranian leadership to rise up that will be for the people of Iran, will promote freedom of worship that the Iranian believers will be able to reach out to the rest of their countrymen and the people of the Middle East.
- For relief goods, financial assistance, God's comfort, healing and hope for the people in Mindanao (SOCSARGEN, Davao Region, etc.) devastated by the recent 7.9 magnitude earthquake that struck the island.

- Pray for the people of Venezuela devastated by two strong 7+ magnitude back-to-back earthquakes. Pray for the rescue of those trapped under collapsed buildings; for strength and protection for the rescue workers; for relief goods and medical services for thousands of affected families. For the church to be the powerful hands of hope and healing that will lead people to Jesus.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God, and make disciples
- For elders, pastors, deacons, and families to become holy, humble, harmonious, happy, and heart-working)
- For ministries and church expansions worldwide.

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain (MMRC)

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper and intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends

## MEMORY VERSE

### Psalm 95:7-8

7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. Today, if you would hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, As in the day of Massah in the wilderness.