

Worship from the Inside Out (Psalm 63)

Introduction

- I. Problem – Honeymoon Effect
 - A. We have all experienced a loss of passion Has your passion for God faded over time?
 - B. True worship not pursued with spiritual fervor and intensity
- II. Background – David in the wilderness of Judah (v.1)
 - A. David’s flight from Absalom (2 Samuel 15:23ff)
 - B. David penned this psalm ~980 B.C. (just shy of 3,000 years ago)
- III. Transition to Worship
 - A. Worship is an expression of adoration from the inside out
 - B. David demonstrates three inside out expressions of worship.
 - C. Each section begins with a statement regarding the desire of his soul for God and ends with a statement regarding the outpouring of worship from his soul to God

The soul that thirsts for God, bursts for God (vv.1-4)

- I. Prerequisite – Knowing God (v.1)
 - A. David said “*my God*” → Personal pronouns used 36 times in 11 verses
 - B. Worship begins with relationship → God is not *a* God or *the* God but *my* God
- II. Seeking God earnestly (vv.1-3)
 - A. Implies urgency → first order of importance → “*earnestly*”
 - B. Thirsting and yearning for God (v.1). How hungry are you?
 - C. Being aware of God’s presence (v.2). Are you aware of His presence?
 - D. Having the right priorities (v.3) Do you believe that God’s faithful love is better than life?
- III. The result – Praising with lips, blessing, and lifting hands (vv.3-4)
 - A. “*praise*” here is sometimes translated “*glorify*” → NIV “*my lips will glorify you*”
 - B. Raising hands is an OT posture of prayer → Physical symbol of dependence
 - C. Danger of divorcing the intellect and the emotions → worship must be inside out (Luke 6:45)

The soul that rests in God, blesses God (vv.5-7)

- I. Being satisfied with God (vv.5-7)
 - A. Being abundantly satisfied in God and with God is the essence of true worship (Psalm 107:9)!
 - B. Remembering God (v.6). What is the relationship between meditation and remembrance?
 - C. Depending on God (v.7). What beautiful truth is communicated by symbolic language?

- II. The result – Praising with lips and singing for joy (vv.5, 7)
 - A. He is not offering praise out of duty or obligation
 - B. These praises are not dry and dispassionate but filled with passion and joy (Psalm 5:11)
 - C. When the need arises, will your mind be filled with Scripture? Will you be satisfied with God?

The soul that clings to God, sings to God (vv.8-11)

- I. Clinging to God (vv.8-10)
 - A. Finding strength in God (v.8). We cling to Him because He first clung to us!
 - B. Trusting in God (vv.9-10). Graphic illustration of the power of God to punish sin
- II. The result – Rejoicing in God, glorying in God (v.11)
 - A. *“the king will rejoice in God”* and everyone who swears by God will glory/praise (hallel)
 - B. Contrast → Believers mouths rejoice vs. unbelievers lying mouths

Exhortations based on the text

1. It is imperative that a relationship with God must be established (v.1).
 - a. Verses 8-11 indicate that there are only two groups of people
 - b. If you have not done so, repent and place your faith in Jesus Christ
2. Seek God and passionately thirst and yearn for Him (v.1)
3. Be aware of the presence of God, gaze upon Him, and behold His power and glory in every circumstance (v.2)
4. Get your priorities right (vv.3-4)
 - a. We know that His love is better than life.
 - b. We need to know God’s love experientially, not just doctrinally
5. Find your ultimate satisfaction in God, nothing else (v.5)
6. Fill you mind with God Himself, not just the things of God (v.6)
7. Understand your weakness and joyfully take refuge in God (v.7)
8. Hold on to God as tightly as you can and be comforted that He is doing the same (v.8)
9. Remember that God will ultimately come to judge the living and the dead (vv.9-11)
10. Always begin and end with God (vv.1, 11)
 - a. And everything in the middle for God’s glory
 - b. This psalm is a great illustration of God-centered worship