

# HOW GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED

RR # 751

- Bible expresses what God expects from His children in every area of their lives
  - This includes ~~ how **He wants them to worship Him**
    - One way He wants us to this is through – **WITNESSING**
      - Last Sabbath - we learned how we can have guaranteed success
  - **Today** we'll look at a Psalm which shares how **God wants** to be **worshipped**
    - **4** specific concepts are shared by the unknown author of this psalm

## **GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED - ENTHUSIASTICALLY**

- **Psm 95:1, 2** ( **Rock of our Salvation** ... expression for **God** only used here )
  - “**Sing**” - literally means shouting aloud w/ **joy**
    - This idea can make conservative people ~ like me ~ a bit uneasy
  - This type of worship seems more passionate and lively than what we do today
    - Maybe ~ many of us are more *stoic* than worshippers in Bible times
      - Bible shares ... God wants us to worship Him actively - earnestly
- A good illustration of what how God want to be worshipped is how it's done in **Heaven**
  - **Rev 5:9 ~ 14** *green flag*
- Many different **styles** of music ... God likes them all ~ as long as they honor Him and express the love in our hearts for our Heavenly Father
  - Notice how the Apostle Paul instructs believers - **Eph 5:18 b - 19** P2
    - **Psalms** means: a striking of musical strings with fingers { guitar playing }
      - Refers primarily to **OT** Psalms accompanied by instrumental music
    - **Hymns** were a **cappella** pieces ~ sung by a group of saints
      - Example is what happened after Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper:
        - ... *they sang a hymn and left for the Mount of Olives*



- **Spiritual songs** refers to songs which share a **personal** testimony
  - Like when we suggest which song we want to sing next
    - “to make melody in our hearts” = we really **mean** it !
- ?? Why all this emphasis on singing ...
  - Look again at **Psm 95:1, 2** joyfully **=** merrily, jubilantly, boisterously
    - Even an untrained ear can detect singing which is **NOT** joyful

## **GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED** *ENTHUSIASTICALLY ...* **also** - **REVERENTLY**

- Bible tells us why God wants us to worship Him enthusiastically and reverently: **V 3**
  - Seems like “**great**” isn’t a big enough adjective to describe our impressive God
    - Hebrew word we translate as **great** literally means **spectacular**
      - Still doesn’t seem sufficient ~~ **Psm 66:5 - 7**
        - We should reflect on God by remembering His **deeds** ... the Exodus - parting the Red Sea - crossing the Jordan Rv
          - **?** How has God used His limitless power **for us**
  - God wants us to worship Him reverently ~ He’s the **Great King** above all other gods
    - **Polytheism** was prevalent in Biblical times ~~ and it’s still pervasive today
      - There have been - and always will - be two kinds of Gods:
        - **One True God** ~ and others we sinners make for ourselves
    - Sinners make gods [small “g”] of convenience: like pleasure – success - \$\$
      - Whatever is number one in our lives ~~ that’s our **god**
        - As sinners we worship and make sacrifices to these false **gods**
  - To worship **Jehovah, Elohim, Adonia** as He desires ... **must** obey **Exodus 20:3**
    - First commandment demands we only worship the **One True God** in Heaven
      - **Matt 22:35 - 38**

- We should worship God reverently because He's a great and awesome God ... Who used His power to **create** everything ...
  - **Psm 95:4, 5**
    - "everything" includes **us** ~ as God explains in **Jeremiah 1:5 a/b**
      - He's not a distant Deity ... He's **undeniably involved** in our lives

**TRANS** ~ to worship God as He wants ... we must:

Worship Him enthusiastically  
Worship Him reverently ... and:

## GOD WANTS TO BE WORSHIPPED - SUBMISSIVELY

- **Psm 95:6, 7 a**
  - **"Worship"** = to prostrate oneself ~ but worshipping God submissively means more than just bowing down
    - More critical than a our posture - is one's **inward being** [how we think; what we hold as important] **I.E.** Relationship btw Jesus & Pharisees
      - Are we submissive to God ... like Jesus was in **Luke 22:42**
- From **God's perspective** ~ our being submissive is key: **Jam 4:7** **submit**
  - Every time we worship **God** ... we must **also resist** the **Devil** because he's working overtime on our minds/hearts to keep us from truly worshipping God
    - To truly submit to **God** in worship ... we must also resist **Satan**
- We should worship God submissively because **( v 7 )** - *"He is our God, and we are His people ... the sheep of His pasture"*
  - **Psm 95:7** should remind us of what Jesus said in **John 10:11**

**TRANS** to worship God as He wants ... we're to: Worship Him enthusiastically  
Worship Him reverently  
Worship Him submissively - and:

## **GOD WANTS OUR OBEDIENCE** -- **For me** ... this is the highest form of worship

- True worship of God ... *as He wants it done* ... results in our obedience
  - Let's notice what the Psalmist wrote: **Psm 95: 7 b – 8 a**
  - “**Rebellion**” refers to the incident described in Exodus Chpt 17 where the Israelites complained about having no water
    - Here the children of God seriously questioned His power and presence
    - Hardening one's heart results from ignoring God's demonstrated goodness
      - Exodus Chpt 17 occurs a few days after God parted the Red Sea
- Hardening one's heart is one of the worst choices we can make ...
  - It results when we're persuaded about Bible Truth by the **H.S.** in our minds ~ **but** we choose **NOT** to surrender our heart ... we **don't** follow God's Voice
    - This decision grieves God ~ because of our actions ... He can't help us
      - God respects our free-will choice and ... we break His heart
- True worship always come from remembering how good God has been to us ... therefore ... we as His Children choose to be obedient to Him
  - **CRITICAL** for us not to harden our hearts when we worship God
    - Four times ... not just **3** ... we're told: *Today, if you hear His voice ~ **do not** harden your hearts*
    - To avoid hardening our hearts - helps to recall: **Psm 34:9, 10 & 84:11**
- **A psychological fact:**
  - Each time we refuse to be obedient to God ~ we harden our hearts some more
    - After a while ... we've hardened our hearts so much ~ we won't even sense God speaking to us any more
      - That's why it's so critical we do not harden our hearts ...
        - Each time we say **no** to God ... it's easier the next time to say the same thing

## CONCLUSION

- To **worship God as He desires** we must:
    - Worship Him enthusiastically
    - Worship Him reverently
    - Worship Him submissively
    - Worship Him obediently
  - God wants us to worship Him like **true** members of His Family ~ **John 4:23, 24**
    - To worship God in **spirit** ... mean with our inner beings
      - Worship flows from the inside ~ outward
        - It's more than being in the right place ~ on the right **day** ... having the right music and being in the right mood
          - True worship is when our hearts are right with God
            - We're talking about our attitude of mind and heart rather than external ritualistic behaviors ( **Pharisees** )
    - To worship God in **truth** ... means to worship Him the way He teaches in His Word
      - Bible is the revelation - in words - of the *Will and Character of God*
        - **John 17:17** ~ the Bible is God's Word and Jesus declares it to be **true**
          - **If** studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works (to conform) us ... to (God's) own image .... The power given us works from within ~ outwardly .... **COL/100**
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    - Worship Him enthusiastically
    - Worship Him reverently
    - Worship Him submissively
    - Worship Him obediently
- Next** - Psm 139