

UVMXA CORE COMPETENCY: WORSHIP

Worship Theology Guide

(Taken from Tim Keller's *Psalms; Disciplines of Grace*)

Psalm 95

1 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it,

and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 when your fathers put me to the test

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

10 For forty years I loathed that generation

and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,

and they have not known my ways."

11 Therefore I swore in my wrath,

"They shall not enter my rest."

What is Worship?

Worship is the act of ascribing ultimate value to something. The word worship original came from "worth-ship". The way we live tells us who/what we worship.

Worship means that we will change the way we live as we realize how great and how much worth God has. We will ascribe ultimate value to God as we worship Him.

Worship involves every part of a person including emotions, spirit, and body. Worship is submitting to something greater and being humble. Worship should change who we are as we give praise and our being to God. Worship is intellectual, remembering and pondering the goodness, greatness, and almighty nature of God.

Why Should we worship?

Naturally, we already all worship something. We all ascribe ultimate value to something whether it's money, fame, power, relationships, education, being liked, etc. We

all put are hope in something. Worshipping these things that do not deserve worship change and destroy our lives and distort are view on the world. Whatever we put our value in controls us and we orient our days, weeks, and years around this. Worshipping God heals us and brings us back to our intended creational being. Worshipping God orients us towards God and His love satisfies. Worship is the ultimate need for our heart.

How can we be skillful at it?

1) We need community to worship well. Look at how the psalm consistently says “Come let *us*” worship and so forth. Corporate worship is the most transforming experience. A diverse community gives an accurate picture of God and the kingdom of God. Corporate worship begins to heal the gap and breaches in human culture.

2) We need truth to worship well. We need to know scripture and know who God is to fully worship Him.

3) We need His Spirit to worship well. We need to come into his presence. We should seek his Spirit to come tangibly in worship.

4) We need gospel sabbath rest. There is a deeper spiritual rest to be found in God. The gospel ends the notion that we need to work for acceptance. We are already accepted by God and to do worship well, we need to understand that it is not one more load, one more duty to do.