

Poems, Prayers & Promises



A Living Faith

Key idea:

True prayer and worship require a living faith that takes time to hear from God and respond in trust and obedience regardless of the current circumstances.

Key text:

Psalm 95

¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

³ For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

⁷ for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert,

⁹ where your fathers tested and tried me, though they had seen what I did.

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with that generation;

I said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they have not known my ways."

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest."

Key points:

1. God commands every single member of His people to worship Him in song and prayer.
2. We worship God because He is the Creator King Who made and presently rules everything.
3. We worship God because He is our Redeemer King Who saved and cares for us as His people.
4. To truly worship God we must have a living faith that is nourished by God's actions in the past and is alive and active through hearing and heeding God's Word in the present.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why does God command His people to worship Him? Why is it right for God to be worshipped?
3. How is worship described in Psalm 95? Is worship just what happens when Christians gather together? If not, what is the relationship between "gathered worship" and the worship I give to God each day through our words and actions?
4. Why does Psalm 95 speak of God as both Creator and Redeemer? How should this inspire and shape my worship?
5. Psalm 95 uses the metaphor of God as the Shepherd of His people. How does this fuel my trust and my worship? How have I seen God's Shepherding care in my life? What specific examples can I give of God's care for me?
6. Why does a "dead faith" that knows about God but does not have a living vibrant walk with Him pose such a danger for believers? How does it undermine worship and joy?
7. What is the greatest danger to my hearing God's Voice today? Is it circumstances that eclipse the reality of God's Shepherding care for me? Is it a lack of time spent in God's Presence? How can I make sure I do not harden my heart and miss my Shepherd's voice?
8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?